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Contents

Editorial <i>Craig Roberts (UK)</i>	1
Flying Saucers: Behind the Cold War Veil of Military Intelligence (Part II) <i>Michael Hall with Wendy Connors (USA)</i>	2
Icefalls investigated by the Anomaly Foundation <i>Fundacion Anomalia (Spain)</i>	48
Anomalous Luminous Phenomena (A.L.P.) <i>Erol Erkmen (Turkey)</i>	50
Canadian UFO Survey indicates increase in UFO sightings, lack attention <i>Chris Rutkowski (Canada)</i>	57
Letter about the <i>Gow et al (2001)</i> study published in Volume 2(2) <i>Claude Mauge (France)</i>	58

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**European Journal of UFO and
Abduction Studies**

**EJUFOAS is the journal of the
Totton Researchers of ufology
Theory and History (TRUTH), and
is an objective publication,
primarily for the European
ufological Community.**

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Aims and Scope.

The European Journal of UFO and Abduction Studies (EJUFOAS) is the journal of TRUTH (Totton Researchers of ufology Theory and History), based in Southampton, United Kingdom. The purpose of EJUFOAS is to circulate ideas and contemporary issues related to ufology (UFO's and the alien abduction phenomena). The primary focus is on European ufological issues and debate but non-European paper may be accepted (limited to one per issue). It hopes to foster much needed development in the field of ufology by publishing diverse papers on, Historical Perspectives, Theoretical Perspectives, Empirical Research, and European Issues involved in this field. Any appropriate paper will be blind reviewed by at least three members of the editorial board and it is usual that the review process takes 4-6 weeks. Regular issues will include *Forum Debate Articles* usually solicited by the editor-in-chief covering a controversial topic in ufology with the opportunity for peer commentary in subsequent volumes, and *Special Editions* that will focus on one area of this diverse field. Finally, it is hoped that this publication will be ground-breaking and bring the European ufological Community closer by allowing publication of reviewed papers that will generate debate and move the World ufological Community forward through innovative and contemporary discussion.

Editorial

Craig Roberts

Welcome to Volume 3(1) of the European Journal of UFO and Abduction Studies. The part-volume has a selection of papers from around the globe highlighting the diversity of research conducted in this ever fascinating field.

The main bulk of the part-volume is taken up with the second part of the Michael Hall and Wendy Connors paper about Flying Saucers and the Cold War. We also feature a very intriguing paper from Turkey via Erol Erkmén of TÜVPO. It is focused around Anomalous Luminous Phenomena that surrounded earthquakes in Turkey and could become a very important project not just for ufology, but for the lives of people around earthquake zones.

We also have a press release from the Anomaly Foundation of Spain. It concerns a strange ice rock shower of January 2000 which was meticulously researched as usual by this excellent organisation. Alongside this we have a brief report on a Canadian survey of UFO activity showing a large increase in sightings in 2001 – again going against some of the recent UK press about how UFOs simply do not exist anymore!

Finally, we have a letter regarding the Gow et al (2001) paper "Fantasy Proneness and Other Psychological Correlates of UFO experience" (*European Journal of UFO and Abduction Studies, Vol 2-2*). It raises some pertinent points about the limitations of this type of research.

As usual, I end with a call for papers to be considered for Volume 3(2) and beyond. We have got this far with high quality papers and we wish to continue to achieve the same.

Flying Saucers: Behind the Cold War Veil of Military Intelligence (Part II)

Michael Hall with Wendy Connors

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Colonel McCoy's influence on Project Sign is very evident. Yet McCoy was not as outwardly vocal on the possibility of an extraterrestrial connection to the flying disc sightings as Loedding—although it seems, privately, he came to hold a similar interest in the theory as did Al Deyarmond.

That theory gained serious consideration after a sighting on July 24, 1948, when Eastern Airlines DC-3 Flight 576 took evasive action at 2:45 A.M. EST to avoid an air-to-air collision with a UFO! The frightened crew were at 5,000 feet and 20 miles southwest of Montgomery, Alabama, when an unknown object flashed out of the northeast. It came as close as 700 feet to the right of their aircraft at a speed of at least 800 miles per hour but produced no propwash as a meteor might be expected to cause. Captain Clarence Shipe Chiles and First Officer John Baker Whitted, had an exceptionally clear view of the UFO. They described it as a 100 foot long, wingless cylindrical-shaped object. The craft appeared to have a "deep blue glow" to the underside, with "two rows of windows from which bright lights glowed" and a "50 foot trail of orange red flame" shooting out the back.

Quickly becoming well-publicized, the now famous Chiles-Whitted sighting remains one of the most notable of all the early UFO cases. By the afternoon of the 25th, Colonel McCoy had Alfred Loedding, Albert Deyarmond, and Major Raymond Llewellyn on an Air Force plane headed to Atlanta. Losing no time, the Sign team quickly had Chiles and Whitted under interrogation on the 26th at the Henry Grady Hotel on Peachtree street.¹ Loedding and Deyarmond questioned the pilots over and over and became impressed by the consistency of their accounts. They were also taken by the military service of Chiles and Whitted and in particular Chiles' outstanding record in commercial aviation. After the investigation the team returned to Dayton convinced that the crew had seen something phenomenal. Edward Ruppelt states in his memoirs that the Sign team was becoming convinced that UFOs were "interplanetary" in origin.²

Project Sign military monitor, Captain Sneider, seemed to be another key advocate of that proposal. Sneider even attached a one-page report to the Chiles-Whitted file in which he argued that a wingless rocket-shaped object could be

aerodynamically feasible. Sneider stated: "That this development is possibly of foreign origin would seem to be a logical premise." That seems to have been the real influence of the Chiles-Whitted case because by "foreign origin," Sneider meant outer space!

FLYING SAUCER STORIES FROM THE PENTAGON

The belief in an extraterrestrial connection to the flying saucers seems to have become a very touchy subject—especially at the Pentagon. Pinning down exactly who thought what and why at AFOIN (Intelligence Headquarters) is elusive. It is also difficult to attain a clear understanding of just who affected policy, let alone visualize exactly how Intelligence functioned. This is especially true in that transitional time frame of 1947 to 1948 when the AAF became the USAF. What really complicates the picture is the fact that the TID Intelligence operation in Dayton was not directly under the chain of command of AFOIN until 1951. At the same time, however, AFOIN utilized TID for gathering air technical intelligence.

Thus, the USAF, although an efficient and honored fighting force, was and is to this day an extremely bureaucratic organization. Nothing happens quickly in government service and seldom does the right-hand know what the left is doing in a timely fashion. It seems many different people within Air Force Intelligence affected military policy on UFOs. And as far as "making policy" went, in those early days, Intelligence was not a very influential group within the Air Force command structure. Seldom did AFOIN take any part in the top Air Force decision making process.³

Policy, in general, would often change simply because a given individual in a particular office or assignment would be promoted or reassigned. Generally speaking, it was rare for even a top official to hold the same assignment for more than three years regardless of his proficiency or lack of it. Maybe at the highest of government echelons there was a group who had all the answers to UFOs but if so, there is *not a single* indication of it in the primary documents now available to researchers.

So it seems that historically speaking, there were almost as many opinions on the reported phenomena as there were decision makers. Individuals who formed positions gravitated to groups which formed factions, not just within the Pentagon but Dayton too. All of the names cannot be detailed here. The following comments simply provide a generalized and still very incomplete look at the people behind the scenes on the Pentagon level.

First, let's look at the Pentagon. In 1947 Carl "Tooey" Spaatz, as Chief of Staff of the AAF, focused most of his attention on the reorganization of the armed forces—leading to the birth of the USAF as an independent branch of the services. So Spaatz figures very little into the UFO or flying saucer story because his junior executive, General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, would oversee much of the day-to-day activity of Air Force operations and replace Spaatz on April 30, 1948.

Vandenberg reshaped a dramatically downsized postwar Air Force into an efficient fighting unit. By the start of the war in Korea in June 1950, he had significantly modernized the force. In doing so, he emphasized the development of a distinctively independent organization from that of its Army parent. Up against two centuries of tradition, he had to take an Army-organized command structure and make it work in the

2. No indication existed that these sightings represented a domestic project.

3. It was unlikely the reported objects were of Soviet origin although there was that possibility which made the reports all that much more important to study.

An estimate of the situation study was not an uncommon type of military report to file. By its nature, it was only an evaluation of a subject up to a specific point in time. Nevertheless, Loedding's *Estimate* was considered rather notable for its bold conclusions. Unfortunately, while his technical expertise was valued, he lost a great deal of respect when he openly suggested the possibility that the discs may have an extraterrestrial origin.

McCoy, Clingerman, Snieder and probably Deyarmond, out of a lack of any other possible conclusion, agreed that it was a valid hypothesis and supported the estimate proposal.¹³ A group from TID which likely included Deyarmond was even sent to the Pentagon that fall to lobby for the report's acceptance.¹⁴ However, it was Alfred Loedding who seemed to be the one to catch all the resulting fallout. It was, after all, his name that graced the front cover. After that point, Loedding recalled, his career was tarnished along with those of some of his team members.¹⁵

Ironically, many in the Pentagon may have agreed with Loedding's conclusion. But, as it went up through the chain of command, advocates and skeptics alike refused to sign off—especially Air Force Chief of Staff General Hoyt S. Vandenberg. Vandenberg certainly did not want to tarnish his own career (nor that of his famous uncle, powerful Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg) by accepting such an extraordinary concept.¹⁶

Yet, for some other unexplained reason, UFOs soon became a very sensitive topic altogether—both in Washington and in Dayton. Ed Ruppelt and former consulting astronomer Dr. J. Allen Hynek mutually recalled in their memoirs that this attitude change occurred virtually overnight around December of 1948.¹⁷

Documents show that on December 16, 1948, Sign was renamed Project Grudge at the request of the Director of Research and Development, Headquarters, USAF.¹⁸ (This was the organization that at that time had technical authority over AMC's TID operation—not AFOIN.) While Project Sign had been a scientific inquest utilizing a whole host of government resources, Grudge concentrated on the public relations problem surrounding the reported phenomena. The new project effectively got underway by January of 1949—right after the first notable radar-related cases appeared as well as some very disturbing sightings over nuclear and military bases.¹⁹

It also seems the Air Force Office of Special Investigation (which had formerly been the CIC or counter intelligence unit), took a similar stance. AFOSI files from 1948 to 1969 show that their district offices around the country did considerable work on UFOs but primarily as it pertained to national security. This more often than not involved investigating news leaks surrounding military sightings, as the subject of UFOs was considered a classified subject in the early years.²⁰ Grudge investigated almost no cases on a firsthand basis but often utilized the AFOSI, especially when a sighting had

made its way into the press.

Major Boggs had a hand in the demise of Project Sign and its reincarnation into Grudge. He became the behind the scenes figure at AFOIN fighting any extraterrestrial hypothesis. As an underling of numerous superiors like Colonel Edward H. Porter of AFOIN's AFOAI analysis group, Boggs would be writing almost all the intelligence directives concerning UFOs for the Pentagon. Boggs thus served as liaison between AFOIN and Sign and its successor Project Grudge and the USAF Scientific Advisory Board, which advised on UFOs via MIT physicist Dr. George E. Valley, and at times, Dr. Joseph Kaplan.²¹ The arrangement was formalized at a November 12-15, 1948, conference at the National Bureau of Standards originally set up to discuss ball lightning phenomena.²² Those meetings, in combination with the rejection of Loedding's *Estimate*, is what signaled the death knell of Project Sign.²³

WASHINGTON VERSUS DAYTON

Researchers believe the National Bureau of Standards conference became confrontational—surrounding Boggs' support of an entirely different AFOIN sponsored document known as Air Intelligence Report Number 100-203-79, "*Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the U.S.*"²⁴ AIR 100-203-79 became a joint "TOP SECRET" study between AFOIN and the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI). Major General Cabell initiated AIR 100-203-79 back on July 27, 1948, after the 1948 Chiles-Whitted sighting. AIR 100-203-79 intended to:

- 1. Examine the pattern of the tactics of the "flying saucers" and develop conclusions therefrom as to their probability.**
- 2. Assuming their reality.²⁵**

It was also around the time of the Chiles-Whitted investigation that Alfred Loedding finalized his *Estimate*—proposing an ET connection. In contrast, AIR 100-203-79 is of note because it came to a different conclusion—suggesting that UFOs *could be* connected to foreign (Soviet) activity:

IT MUST be accepted that some type of flying objects have been observed, although their identification and origin are not discernible. In the interest of national defense it would be unwise to overlook the possibility that some of these objects may be of foreign origin.²⁶

AIR 100-203-79 proves that the Intelligence officers in Washington were just as convinced as those in Dayton that *some* of the reports represented tangible objects. Thus it seems there was no disagreement behind the scenes about the reality of "an unknown" phenomena. However, AIR 100-203-79 also suggests that the anti-UFO faction at AFOIN was not really anti-UFO at all—just anti-saucer. In other words, people such as Boggs and his superiors like Colonel Edward H. Porter, were more concerned with the Cold War than scientific curiosity of a phenomenon which they probably

realized had been around for a long time. Major Boggs and those in the AFOIN analysis group were apparently only worried that the new UFO reports might represent Soviet aircraft. Or, at the very least, the sightings might be exploited by the Soviets as a psychological warfare weapon. After all, this did all take place in the middle of the Berlin airlift when East-West tensions were at a fever pitch.

Major General Cabell, on the other hand, initiated AIR 100-203-79 with the express purpose to "examine the pattern of tactics of the flying saucers."²⁷ He expected an objective study.²⁸ Cabell thus seemed to be just as curious about the flying saucer mystery as Alfred Loedding and the Sign team. Apparently, it was his team that then turned it into a Cold War issue.

A look at the actual creation of AIR 100-203-79 is revealing. Cabell's initial order to analyze the saucer activity was sent to Brigadier General Ernest (Dinty also nicknamed Mickey) Moore. Moore was by then Cabell's Chief of AFOAI.²⁹ It is known from various AFOIN files that Moore was definitely skeptical of "flying saucers." So he apparently simply passed Cabell's order on to his deputy, Colonel James H. Walsh. Walsh worked on it with the executive at Air Intelligence, Colonel Frank P. Sturdivant.

On August 13, Walsh finally passed it on to Lieutenant Colonel R.N. "Al" Smith of the AFOIN Office of Air Intelligence Defense Estimates or AFOAI-DE.³⁰ Smith then worked with TID liaison Major Boggs at AFOAI-DA—possibly because Boggs was the man responsible for backing the internal office position that the Russians were the only important matter of consideration when it came to UFOs/flying saucers.

In fact, it seems all the key people on Cabell's analysis staff like Moore, Walsh, Sturdivant, Smith and Boggs thought that there was a remote possibility that the German WWII flying wing designs of the Horten brothers (Reimar and Walter of Goettingen) were being perfected by the Soviets. The Horten brothers had not been captured by the Russians, but many of their prototypes had. Another German flying wing genius, Dr. Guenther Beck, had actually been physically appropriated by the Soviets.³¹ And much of Germany's cutting edge aircraft industry based around Berlin and in eastern Germany had fallen into Soviet hands.³²

As has been examined, through 1947 Colonel McCoy and Alfred Loedding also worried that the Soviets may have perfected Nazi technology.³³ Loedding more than anyone else would have been attuned to that possibility after working closely with noted German aerodynamicist Dr. Alexander Lippisch.³⁴ But the point is that by 1948 TID (as well as Taylor and Garrett at AFOIR-CO) had discounted that scenario where as it was still seriously discussed at AFOIN's AFOAI branch. Why?

All that is known for sure is that Brigadier General Moore and his assistant Colonel Porter made Boggs the Pentagon's official "saucer killer."³⁵ This was perhaps to keep a focus on "Soviet UFOs" as opposed to more far-fetched theories, but frankly, we may never know all the reasons why. Nor do we know how in tune Major General Cabell was to all that was going on under him.

It is known that "TOP SECRET" intelligence reports were actually coming into AFOIN at the time, warning of possible Soviet *links* to "flying saucer" sightings. The following "TOP SECRET" December, 1948, memorandum from Brigadier General Moore detailing a new Russian surface-to-surface missile is illustrative of that. The report had

to have made an impression.

TOP SECRET
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON **2-5580**
T.S. Cont. #
D.I.—Hq. USAF

8 DEC 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND CNI

SUBJECT: Top Secret Supplement to Daily Activity Report
Recent information, evaluated by ID EUCOM as probably true, indicates the existence of a new type Soviet guided missile (probably surface-to-surface). The report states that the missile called "V-4" by the Soviets was being produced at the former "Kalinin" Armament Plant No. 8, Kaliningrad district of Moscow, early in 1948. The Soviet "V-4" has no similarity to the German V-1 or V-2 type missiles which are also said to be in production at Kaliningrad. The "V-4" is shown by a drawing to resemble an aircraft (slightly smaller than a C-47 aircraft), and apparently incorporates rocket propulsion. Five rocket or jet apertures are arranged horizontally in the tail of the missile. This arrangement might provide for full power take-off using all five rockets with cut-offs for some rockets to economize on fuel after the missile is airborne. If this procedure is employed the Soviet "V-4" may have a range in excess of 400 miles. It is believed that the Kaliningrad factory has been primarily engaged in the fabrication of a large number of missiles for development and test purposes, and that the Soviet "V-4" may be undergoing extensive tests prior to service acceptance.

(Major A. J. Boggs - Ext. 74507)

SOURCE: ID EUCOM report dated 29 Sep 48, TS Control No. 2-4846,

Evaluated- B-2.

[signed]

E. Moore Brig.General, USAF
Chief, Air Intelligence Division
DI/USAF – ONI

9 Dec 48

Not used

[illegible]

Maj

[handwritten]

This is for the

***information of
Gen. Cabell. It should
not be forwarded outside
the Directorate because of the source.***³⁶

_____ On the other hand, recently released AFOIN documents discovered by Jan Aldrich do suggest that the nebulous flying saucer phenomena was just as much a worry as Soviet-inspired UFOs. The following document is a classic example. On November 4, 1948, AFOIN received a long Telecon (telephone conversation) Transcript (TT) from U.S. Air Force Intelligence in Europe (USAFE A-2). The cable contained a number of various items on "TOP SECRET" subjects but after received on the AFOIN telex, each item in the message was retyped as a separate file.

Item #14 of the TT #1524 concerned flying saucers in Europe. At the time there had been a number of recent sightings near U.S. military bases in Germany and "flying saucers" were being seen by local residents as well. TT #1524 commented on that activity.

TT #1524 also stated in a rather informal tone for an Intelligence communique, that flying saucers "have been reported by so many sources . . . that we are convinced that they cannot be disregarded and must be explained on some basis which is perhaps slightly beyond the scope of our present intelligence thinking."³⁷ The document is AMAZING and must be read in full:

TOP SECRET

USAFE 14 TT 1524 TOP SECRET 4 Nov 1948

From OI OB

For some time we have been concerned by the recurring reports on flying saucers. They periodically continue to crop up; during the last week, one was observed hovering over Neubiberg Air Base for about thirty minutes. They have been reported by so many sources and from such a variety of places that we are convinced that they cannot be disregarded and must be explained on some basis which is perhaps slightly beyond the scope of our present intelligence thinking.

When officers of this Directorate recently visited the Swedish Air Intelligence Service. [sic] This question was put to the Swedes. Their answer was that some reliable and fully technically qualified people have reached the conclusion that "these phenomena are obviously the result of a high technical skill which cannot be credited to any presently known culture on earth." They are therefore assuming that these objects originate from some previously unknown or unidentified technology, possibly outside the earth.

One of these objects was observed by a Swedish technical expert near his home on the edge of a lake. The object crashed or landed in the lake and he carefully noted its azimuth from his

point of observation. Swedish intelligence was sufficiently confident in his observation that a naval salvage team was sent to the lake.

Operations were underway during the visit of USAFE officers. Divers had discovered a previously uncharted crater on the floor of the lake. No further information is available, but we have been promised knowledge of the results. In their opinion, the observation was reliable, and they believe that the depression on the floor of the lake, which did not appear on current hydrographic charts, was in fact caused by a flying saucer.

Although accepting this theory of the origin of these objects poses a whole new group of questions and puts much of our thinking in a changed light, we are inclined not to discredit entirely this somewhat spectacular theory, meantime keeping an open mind on the subject. What are your reactions?

TOP SECRET³⁸

A document dated the previous day also demonstrates a sense of urgency. It was sent from the AFOIN Director to Colonel McCoy (via the AMC Commander). In the first part of the letter, Cabell is basically asking McCoy his opinion on the flying saucer issue. This is somewhat puzzling considering Cabell must assuredly have been privy to Loedding's July *Estimate* draft and TID's subsequent lobbying efforts on its behalf. Although hard to put in perspective, it is clearly another example of Washington verses Dayton:³⁹

The conclusion appears inescapable that some type of flying object has been observed. Identification and the origin of these objects is not discernible to this Headquarters. It is imperative, therefore, that efforts to determine whether these objects are of domestic or foreign origin must be increased until conclusive evidence is obtained. The needs of national defense require such evidence in order that appropriate countermeasures may be taken.⁴⁰

There are some very significant phrases in Major General Cabell's letter. Namely, he admits that it is "inescapable that some type of flying object has been observed." Colonel McCoy's response on November 8 is very long. (Researchers should study these documents in full because they primarily deal with the issue of handling the media in regard to UFOs.) But of special note is the following statement made in response by McCoy:

The possibility that the reported objects are vehicles from another planet has not been ignored. However, tangible evidence

to support conclusions about such a possibility are completely lacking. The occurrence of incidents in relation to the approach to the earth of the planets Mercury, Venus and Mars have been plotted. A periodic variation in the frequency of incidents, which appears to have some relation to the planet approach curves is noted, but it may be purely a coincidence.⁴¹

In light of such documents, does the emphasis being paid by the AFOIN analysis group to Cold War issues make sense? Despite an obvious concern over the *possible* extraterrestrial nature of saucers, it seems apparent when looking at some of the other anti-saucer cadre on Cabell's staff that they were indeed much more concerned over Soviet UFOs—i.e. unidentified aircraft and missiles.

These men included Brigadier General Walter R. Agee as well as Brigadier General Moore and Colonel Porter. Some say a highly-valued member of AFOIN's AFOAI analysis staff, Colonel Harold E. Watson, was also skeptical of the whole issue—being purely a Cold Warrior. In fact, both Porter and Watson were specifically named in Edward Ruppelt's private papers as "violently anti-saucer."⁴²

HAROLD E. WATSON—SAUCER KILLER?

It is of particular importance to study Colonel Watson in detail because he twice held the commander's seat at TID/ATIC and had significant influence over UFO investigations conducted out of Dayton. Personal interviews with T-2/TID/ATIC/FTD veteran Victor Bilek and Colonel Watson's own secretary, Ivaline "Ivy" Mammolite revealed a belief that Colonel Watson was not really as skeptical of the saucer subject as some recall.⁴³ This author takes the sources at their word but continues to investigate the interesting career of Harold Watson who was undoubtedly a very competent officer with a distinguished career.

Through personal conversations with those who knew Colonel Watson, like TID/ATIC Analysis Division veteran Colonel Nathan Rosengarten and Mr. Bilek, the author learned of their *high regard* for him. This, in fact, seems true for almost anyone who served under Colonel Watson. In his early career, he had been a highly technically trained "engine man." Since earning his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1933 and completing some more course work at Yale, Watson proved himself a valued research engineer for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Company. By 1936, however, he decided to join the Army Air Corps. Watson wanted to learn to fly.

He did become a flying cadet and soon came under the experienced wing of none other than Lieutenant Curtis LeMay—strategic bombing visionary and future Air Force Chief of Staff. Watson excelled in flying school as he did in every endeavor in life. But due to what was considered a mature age of 25 and an unusually high technical expertise, he was destined for desk work. So in June of 1937 he began a tour at Langley Field as an Engineering Officer. Although not one to be detoured from his passions, he learned to fly almost every aircraft in the inventory despite being assigned desk duties.

In 1939, while beginning the first of five tours at Dayton, First Lieutenant Watson

went to work in the Wright Labs Power Plant Division—specializing in engine quality and production liaison with major manufacturers for the Air Force.⁴⁴ It was around this time that Watson and John "Red" Honaker (a future Project Sign member) became close friends. Honaker was a clerk at the flight desk in those days and always gave his friend the word when a hot new aircraft came onto the field—Watson still being eager to log flight time on his weekends off.⁴⁵

By the time America entered the war, Lieutenant Watson was working to complete his masters degree in aeronautical engineering from the University of Michigan. This was quite an opportunity, as only three people from Wright Labs were picked for that advanced course work. After graduation, Captain Watson returned to being a valuable troubleshooter in engine quality control and even testified before Senator Harry S Truman's oversight committee as an expert in aircraft power plant production.

Moving from captain to major in one month, he became a key Army liaison with the Wright-Aero factory in Cincinnati, Ohio. During the latter part of the war, Lieutenant Colonel Watson distinguished himself as Director of Maintenance for the 1st Tactical Air Force in an overseas assignment in England. His work impressed General Henry Harley "Hap" Arnold, Commanding General of the Army Air Forces. But it was the Commanding General of U.S. Strategic Air Forces, General Spaatz, who picked him for the assignment he is most known for.

Spaatz put the fast up-and-coming wonder boy Harold Watson in charge of Operation Lusty—an endeavor to recover German aircraft technology. The small handpicked group of ace test pilots and master mechanics Watson led around Europe at the end of the war became known as Watson's "Whizzers." The Whizzers all had great admiration for their commander—by then a full Colonel.

While in this assignment, Colonel Watson finally got to do some "official" test flying. Of course, in actuality, he had always managed to fly the latest new aircraft—working out perplexing mechanical problems along the way that proved the salvation of many a pilot's life. However, Watson had never been rated as a test pilot. As head of Operation Lusty he had the chance to make that grade while flying many new high performance German designs such as the Heinkel 177 four engined dual propeller bomber, Arado 234-B jet bomber and the Messerschmitt 262 jet fighter.

The assignment certainly fit Watson's flamboyant personality and called on his widely varied talents, but it was indeed dangerous work. On one adventure, Colonel Watson almost lost his life when a German saboteur attached an explosive device to a Junkers 290 transport that he and his men were returning home on via a bold Atlantic crossing. When the fearless Watson landed in this huge aircraft, the bomb was discovered under the main fuel tank and luckily disarmed without incident. For his many exploits during Project Lusty, Colonel Watson received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal.⁴⁶

Virtually anyone who had the honor to serve with or under Harold Watson spoke of him highly. His biography by Air Force historian Bruce Ashcroft begins with a statement that he "was the type of person who would roll up his shirt sleeves and work side by side with his people."⁴⁷

He was a fine officer, but what accounts for his so-called skeptical behavior in regard to flying saucers? Why did he seem to have such little patience or interest associated with UFO investigations? Perhaps he gained unique insights on the earlier "Ghost Rocket" phenomenon during his third tour at Wright Field as chief of the Collections Division for T-2 from November 19, 1945, to August 10, 1946 (succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel Malcolm D. Seashore). Or, maybe he attained an insight on flying saucer sightings during a tour at the Industrial College and then the Pentagon on Cabell's AFOIN staff from 1947 to July 1949 in the AFOAI-SV (Strategic Vulnerability Branch). Perhaps, at that time, he learned something modern researchers do not understand. Is it possible that he was quoted by Ruppelt as saying "flying saucers are a bunch of nonsense" because he knew the reports to be unreliable?⁴⁸

One source suggested to the author that Watson may have actually believed in "flying saucers" and *certainly* AFOIN Director Major General Cabell did.⁴⁹ Although, this is not to imply that they believed in an extraterrestrial origin per se but the reality of a tangible phenomenon or a whole set of phenomena. They both knew there was "something" unexplainable. It was all over their approach. When Colonel Watson succeeded Colonel McCoy as TID Commander in July 1949, he wanted to deal with flying saucers by discouraging investigation into them. This was perhaps because the disc reports were just so unexplainable that he wanted to ignore them to concentrate on Cold War issues. His arrival, in fact, came just months after the end of Project Sign and the creation of a very ineffective successor, Project Grudge. So maybe he was under orders to de-emphasize the issue by AMC's superior, the Director of Research & Development, Headquarters. Because TID was not *directly* under the control of AFOIN until May of 1951, we do not know Cabell's full influence.

RETURN TO DAYTON

When Colonel Watson took over TID in the summer of 1949, UFOs were already a very small part of the duties assigned to the Analysis Division. By that point, the whole TID operation was a vastly different unit than it had been during the heyday of T-2 in 1946 and 1947. Colonel Watson was under severe budget cuts in 1949 which reduced TID to around 300 people.

By the time Colonel Watson replaced Colonel McCoy, there were two new administrators for the recently established Grudge project—George W. Towles and Howard Smith. They had replaced Alfred Loedding and Captain Robert R. Sneider around February 12, 1949, when Sign was "officially" closed and a final report submitted.⁵⁰

The Towles and Smith team soon produced a report themselves by August 1949 that was distinctively different from the final Project Sign report. It is not known if the Project Grudge report was inspired by Colonel Watson, but it is interesting to compare it to the Sign final report of only six months previous. A few comments, therefore, should first be provided on the latter.

Classified "SECRET," the Sign report had been written by Lawrence Truettner and Albert Deyarmond and titled *Unidentified Aerial Objects-Project Sign*.⁵¹ It postdated Loedding's *Estimate* and was finished by February of 1949. The document utilized a

number of reports prepared by outside agencies and advisors contracted to render analysis. These were listed in appendices to the report. Actually, some of the studies were not finished in time for the Sign report and ended up in the later Grudge report.

In the Sign report it mentions the Rand study. This refers to an investigation ordered on July 21, 1948, by the Pentagon. It had been issued after a formal request by Colonel McCoy, who wanted the Rand Corporation (already involved in an artificial satellite study) to evaluate the possibility that some observed objects may represent "spaceships" or "satellite vehicles."⁵² That was stunning terminology because Intelligence then knew full well after interviewing Wernher von Braun, that not only did the United States not possess anything that could attain earth orbit, neither did the Soviets. In fact, it would be nine years before such an event occurred with Sputnik.⁵³

Even the Introduction to the Sign report has an intriguing passage. In the second paragraph it clearly states that the report is not a final estimate of the situation. This may very well have been a way of stating that the Sign report was not able to draw the conclusions it did in Loedding's *Estimate*.

Another sentence in the final report also seems to draw something from the earlier *Estimate* report when it speaks of assessing the possibility of a threat to national security presented by "such large numbers of unidentified flying objects." In the original *Estimate* report, Dr. Hynek confirmed that the Sign team called for an official UFO alert to be proclaimed—somewhat as was actually issued late in the fall of 1948.⁵⁴

The Sign report's summary again uses that phrase and speaks of *The Books of Charles Fort*, which was one of the first works detailing unusual aerial phenomena in earlier times. This is significant because officially the Air Force has always refused to recognize UFO phenomena prior to Kenneth Arnold's June 24, 1947 sighting. (Their reasoning follows that Arnold's "crazy story" simply created the UFO phenomenon by planting the idea of "saucers" in the minds of people.) One wonders how much discussion was present in Loedding's *Estimate* of earlier UFO sightings—of which TID files documented but were subsequently purged of when released to the National Archives in 1975.⁵⁵

Many more passages follow the introductory remarks, including an appendix by James E. Lipp which detailed the Rand study. Rand considered the possibility that flying saucers *could* originate from either Venus or Mars.⁵⁶ But Lipp's report stated that "the actions attributed to the 'flying objects' reported during 1947 and 1948 seem inconsistent with space travel [because of the vast distances involved]."

The Sign final report was released only to high level government offices like the Research and Development Board.⁵⁷ As Project Sign became Project Grudge it was officially indexed as the "Detailed Study of Flying Discs." Grudge clearly marked a sudden attitude change in UFO investigations. As already stated, this revised project began in 1949 by concentrating on the public relations problem surrounding UFOs.⁵⁸ That, in fact, may have been the very reason that TID filed the new, rather facetious, code name "Grudge" when asked to reorganize Sign.⁵⁹

Prior to Colonel Watson's arrival, the elite of the TID intelligence personnel—almost all of whom had gravitated to Sign—were moving onto other projects. Edward Ruppelt learned that many of these individuals "drastically and hurriedly changed their

minds about UFOs when they thought the Pentagon was no longer sympathetic to the UFO cause." Those who did not change their minds were "purged."⁶⁰

Others who had even briefly considered the extraterrestrial hypothesis eventually found themselves replaced by new personnel. Grudge became a conduit to "put an end to UFO reports" by explaining every sighting and telling the public just how the Air Force used expert investigation methods to reach their conclusions. This sudden change in policy was so pronounced that Ruppelt wondered if there was not some hidden reason behind it. He wrote of an underlying feeling he had when taking over UFO investigations himself in 1951:

This period of mind changing bothered me. Here were people deciding that there was nothing to this UFO business right at a time when the reports seemed to be getting better—maybe I was just playing the front man to a big cover-up. I didn't like it because if somebody above me knew that UFOs were really spacecraft, I could make a big fool out of myself if the truth came out.⁶¹

So in this transition period from Colonel McCoy to Colonel Watson, we not only have a great mystery but also the formation of another report. Where the Project Sign report advocated a continued study of the UFO phenomenon, the Grudge report largely debunked the issue. It was titled Technical Report No. 102-AC-49/15-100 *Unidentified Flying Objects-Project Grudge*. The document "officially" summarized the Air Force's research into UFOs since 1947. Although the 500-page report was not technically declassified until 1952, a copy was made available for viewing while standing at the Air Force Press Desk in the Pentagon. Edward Ruppelt, however, claimed a number of copies conveniently got out into private hands and among some media personalities.⁶² He also commented that the Grudge report was ambiguous, illogical and "an apparent effort to write off all UFO reports at any cost."⁶³ It stated:

- 1. Evaluation of reports of unidentified flying objects constitute no direct threat to the national security of the United States.**
- 2. Reports of unidentified flying objects are the result of:**
 - a. A mild form of mass-hysteria or "war nerves."**
 - b. Individuals who fabricate such reports to perpetuate a hoax or to seek publicity.**
 - c. Psychopathological persons.**
 - d. Misinterpretation of various conventional objects.**⁶⁴

THE PURGES

By the time of Colonel Watson's arrival at TID and the subsequent release of the Grudge report, many of the original Project Sign investigators had been reassigned. But some of the key Sign team members like Loedding, who had excluded a Soviet scenario in favor of a non-earthly origin for the saucers, were not completely out of the picture.

Ironically, under Colonel Watson's early reign, those individuals responsible for analyzing Cold War related UFOs (meaning sightings of new Russian aircraft and missiles) were the very Project Sign investigators that so suddenly fell out of favor at the end of 1948.⁶⁵

Alfred Loedding was ideal for such an assignment. He had headed up Aeronautical Sciences, an office that he had created with Nick Post back in 1946 for Colonel McCoy when moving from the T-3 Engineering Department to T-2 Intelligence. After leaving Sign he again directed that department and was by then analyzing data on unidentified Soviet aircraft sightings for Colonel Watson.

Lawrence H. Truettner, a former Sign team member and strong believer in saucers, also became involved with "man-made UFOs." He served as chief of Foreign Missiles and was involved in analyzing intelligence gathered from Eastern Block countries on suspected Soviet rocket tests. In fact, these two men were the backbone of Lieutenant Colonel A.J. Hemstreet's, and then Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Rosengarten's Performance and Characteristics Branch. This branch came under the Analysis Division's Aircraft and Propulsion Section headed by Lieutenant Colonel Kent Parrot and on an occasional temporary basis by Albert Deyarmond.⁶⁶

Unfortunately, it seems that time was against Loedding and Truettner. Both were civilians and although very experienced, they were being phased out by one of Colonel Watson's many new policies. One initiative in particular would ultimately eliminate certain civilian jobs in favor of seeking some specialized services outside of the military through contracts with think tanks like Rand and Battelle. Colonel Watson also wanted to attract some very prestigious and as a result, probably some high-salaried experts to serve as on-staff consultants. One example of this is A. Francis Arcier.

Air Force historian Bruce Ashcroft wrote that Arcier enjoyed international reputation as an aircraft designer. He was born and educated in England and had designed the famous First World War era Handley-Page and Barling bombers. In 1919, Arcier came to America and joined Tony Fokker's new aircraft company. He then went to work for the Atlantic Aircraft Corporation in 1924 and after that served as chief engineer of General Airplanes of Buffalo. By 1930, he was working for Waco. Arcier had gone into retirement in June of 1947 after leaving the Waco Aircraft factory in Dayton as vice president in charge of engineering.⁶⁷ At that time, Arcier was convinced by Colonel McCoy to serve the AMC as a scientific advisor under a personal service contract. After his contract expired he was hired as a PL (Public Law) 13 and subsequently enjoyed the protocol equivalent to a rank of Brigadier General.⁶⁸ When Colonel Watson became Commander, he enthusiastically utilized Arcier's expertise and veterans remember Arcier and Watson as being "inseparable."⁶⁹ This may have been an odd combination because some also recall Arcier as being extremely interested in the saucer sightings.

Soon, Colonel Watson had Arcier and former Project Sign team members Al Deyarmond and John Zell working on analyzing each job at TID and formulating recommendations to maximize the best skills available. So these famous purges, of which there were many, were primarily motivated to make TID as lean and efficient an operation as its meager budget would allow and reflected Colonel Watson's *excellent* record as a top-notch administrator. Primarily, however, the thrust of the purges were

aimed at the large number of non-technically schooled people who had gravitated to the old T-2 section in 1945 and 1946.

As mentioned, back during that time, T-2's Analysis Division had expanded in an attempt to process the huge amounts of German technical documents and hardware. Manpower was needed so competent people in areas like aircraft maintenance and other fields were recruited. As the years went by, some of these individuals, such as John "Red" Honaker and George Towles, remained and became very skilled. Unfortunately, they did not have the academic credentials to back up their acquired practical experience. As a result, many eventually found themselves phased out.⁷⁰

However, Loedding and Truettner were not in that category. They were highly educated with years of additional training under their belts. Actually, it seems that Loedding and Truettner's eventual exit from Intelligence may have (in part) been due to the fact that they would not back down from their extraterrestrial hypothesis. Apparently they refused to ignore the truly phenomenal "UFO" cases that, by the nature of their new work, would periodically still cross their desks.

Thus, while UFOs remained politically correct, flying saucers were far from it. Those two men could not and would not deny what *to them* seemed obvious. Loedding even later confided to a Trenton, New Jersey, *Times* reporter that by that time "my stock in Washington had hit an all time low."⁷¹

As one anonymous source told the author, "the saucer boys were on their way out."⁷² In addition, it seems personal conflicts between Loedding and the then Assistant for the Plans and Operations Division at TID, Albert Deyarmond, hastened Loedding's eventual decision to leave the Air Force for private industry.⁷³

It makes sense that Deyarmond would have been the man involved in this because, keep in mind, he was one of Colonel Watson's trouble-shooters evaluating TID personnel and job requirements.⁷⁴ Deyarmond proved as loyal to Colonel Watson as he had been to Colonel McCoy. Although Loedding and Deyarmond might have personally agreed on the reality of flying saucers, it appears they never worked well together even during the heyday of Project Sign.

Colonel Watson also used his old friend from the early Wright Field days, John "Red" Honaker. Honaker was another former Project Sign veteran and, like Miles Goll, served for a period as liaison to a later UFO statistical study at Battelle which was part of a larger Cold War analysis project called Stork. By 1950, Honaker worked as a point man for Watson, keeping in contact with every project and facet of work going on at TID. Officially, his title was Assistant to the Chief. In reality, he was Colonel Watson's eyes and ears. Honaker would constantly pop in on different departments and ask for quick verbal status reports. This was the Colonel's way of keeping everyone on their toes.⁷⁵ It worked!

Ironically, both Honaker and Deyarmond seemed to privately hold just as much curiosity about the saucer reports as Loedding. Yet, by 1949 they changed with the politics of the time.⁷⁶

FLYING SAUCERS AND THE PRESS

The most illustrative tale of AFOIN and TID attitudes on UFOs concerns an

important press article from 1949. This story revolves around a two-part feature which appeared on April 29 of 1949 in *The Saturday Evening Post*. (Part two followed on May 7.) Authored by Sidney Shallet, the article exemplified the military's position on flying saucers.

Shallet had approached the Air Force on doing such a story back in 1948. He wanted assistance with the feature because the public had remained keenly interested in the "flying saucers" since 1947. Shallet, who was on cordial terms with Air Force Director of Public Relations official, Stephen F. Leo, finally got the Pentagon interested. Little *assistance*, however, came from Major General Cabell who continued to try to delay the issue. Cabell and his staff, in several draft documents, expressed great concern as to how to handle the press.⁷⁷

SECRET

AFOIN

24 November 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

PROBLEM:

1. To obtain authority from the Secretary of Defense for Air Force participation in the preparation of magazine and newspaper articles dealing with the "flying saucer" incidents.

FACTS AND DISCUSSION:

2. Mr. Stanley Shallet, a member of the staff of the Saturday Evening Post, has been directed to write an article for the Post dealing with the "flying saucer" incidents. Mr. Shallet has approached the Director of Intelligence for assistance in the preparation of this article.

3. It is the opinion of the Directorate of Intelligence that publicity of this nature is undesirable but, if such articles are written, they will be less harmful to the national interest if a degree of guidance in their preparation is exercised by the Directorate of Intelligence.

4. Sufficient unclassified data is on hand in the Air Intelligence Division, D/I, to assist in the preparation of an article on the "flying saucer" incidents. Project officers to give guidance to Mr. Shallet are available within the Air Intelligence Division.

ACTION REQUIRED:

5. Signature by the Director of Intelligence and forwarding.

COORDINATION:

Brig. General E. Moore, Chief, Air Intelligence Division, Ext 2542⁷⁸

SECRET

**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. FORRESTAL:
SUBJECT: Publicity on Flying Saucer Incidents**

The U.S. Air Force collects and evaluates all information on "flying saucers." A special project has been in progress since early 1948 wherein a detailed, technical analysis on all data is being made to ascertain origin and identification of "flying saucers." Meanwhile the Directorate of Intelligence has completed a preliminary analysis of "flying saucer" incidents to establish possible explanations.

At the present time evaluation of these reports has progressed only to the extent that we must accept that some type of flying objects have been observed, although their identification and origin are not discernible. We, therefore, conclude that insufficient data is available to date to warrant any action except continuing attempts to determine the nature and origin of these objects. There has been increasing pressure from the U.S. Press to publicize "flying saucer" reports. Despite our efforts to discourage such publicity the editors of the Saturday Evening Post have directed a member of their staff to write an article on "flying saucer" incidents. It appears that articles of this nature would be less harmful to national interests if the Department of the Air Force were authorized to assist the Press in the preparation of such articles as they insist upon writing. It is recommended that the Department of the Air Force be authorized to assist the Press, upon request, in preparing such articles as they insist upon writing. It is also recommended that inquiring agencies be informed that the Air Force is investigating carefully all valid reports of flying objects.

SECRET⁷⁹

Cabell displayed caution not just in regard to flying saucer stories but to all such sensitive Air Force Intelligence matters. However, because Shallet's backing eventually came all the way from Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal, Cabell was thwarted in his efforts to kill the story. This may have also been largely due to Leo himself who had a rapport with Forrestal.⁸⁰ So the Shallet article was going ahead regardless, but at least Cabell did have control over the information that he would receive because that would have to be provided by his own office of Air Force Intelligence.⁸¹

Thus, Shallet's "What You Can Believe About Flying Saucers" contained many carefully crafted quotations. In fact, subordinates in Major General Cabell's office like Major Boggs *may* have used Shallet as a tool to suggest that the Air Force was being

"forced" into investigating reports that were almost always explainable. The conclusion stemmed from some of Cabell's other staff members like Colonel Porter who thought the new saucer sightings were a result of too much public excitement over the subject. They thought if the situation could be defused, reports would go down and thus save the Air Force a lot of time and money then being taken up by the investigations.

It is known that Colonel Watson felt that way in Dayton because many within TID were upset that funds and resources from their sparse budget were being used to support the Grudge and earlier Sign project.⁸² TID administrators were also jealous of the fact that the few good analysis men they had with engineering backgrounds were often being diverted to "saucer assignments."⁸³

Cabell himself thought Intelligence was burdened with an undue amount of work associated with saucer reports—especially if the press was allowed to oversensationalize the subject. However, unlike Colonel Watson in Dayton, Major General Cabell did apparently have a serious interest in flying saucer reports and for that additional reason wanted the press off the subject.⁸⁴ In other words, he wanted Intelligence to have a chance to investigate the issue free of a lot of public relations problems. Cabell stated in his memoirs that he felt it was a serious intelligence issue and even challenged his officers to prove that the saucers were real.⁸⁵

In regard to the press in general, Cabell already felt he had been "burned" by popular columnist and radio commentator Walter Winchell.⁸⁶ During a broadcast on April 3, 1949, Winchell made the statement that flying saucers were actually guided missiles from Russia. Recently discovered AFOIN documents are very sketchy but do point out that this created a great deal of excitement in the Pentagon by the next day.⁸⁷ One document shows that Lieutenant Colonel R.N. Al Smith of AFOAI-DE hand carried Cabell's urgent written assessment of Winchell's broadcast to the Chief of Staff at 4:30 P.M. on April 6.⁸⁸ Combined with other news stories circulating at the time, which linked flying saucers to Soviet aircraft and missiles, a state of public anxiety was developing. Cabell himself later recalled the whole subject bordering on near mass hysteria.⁸⁹

Perhaps that is why, as will be discussed shortly, there were so many briefings being prepared by AFOIN in late April 1949. Certainly by April, press interest was growing despite a rather slow year in general for UFO sightings. Major General Cabell apparently worried about this increased press interest—especially in relation to the soon to be released Shallet article.

In fact, Cabell brought up the point that if Shallet was allowed access, then it would only be fair to allow other reporters and news media personalities the same opportunity.⁹⁰ So, Cabell was definitely expressing concern over setting this precedent. He was also worried about exactly what Shallet may add to the information that his office supplied him and apparently tried to control the process as much as possible. This was a tactic that Cabell was noted for throughout his career.⁹¹

When Shallet's article appeared on April 29, it became extremely important in the background history of the "flying saucer story" because the press had been patiently waiting since 1947 for the USAF to evaluate the situation and come out with a report. This piece, in connection with a Pentagon "Project Saucer" press release prepared by the AMC's public relations office and distributed that same day (which oddly was less

critical of the reports than Shallet's own article), served that need.⁹² The AMC's press release had even made the following statement which on the one hand said the issue was serious but at the same time not to worry:

The "saucers" are not a joke. Neither are they a cause for alarm to the population. Many of the incidents already have answers, Meteors, Balloons, Falling stars, Birds in flight, Testing devices, etc. Some of them still end in question marks.⁹³

OTHER MYSTERIES FROM 1949

Discoveries by noted UFO researcher and writer Jan Aldrich also prove the April 1949 time period to be very important. For example, just two days before the *Saturday Evening Post* hit the newsstands, Cabell's analysis staff briefed the USAF Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations on UFOs, which was AFOIN's direct superior. That same day, Cabell sent a "TOP SECRET" report titled *Unidentified Aerial Objects* to the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), which he then moonlighted as chairman of. Its members (who represented the Army, Navy, Air Force, State Department, FBI, and CIA) read the document with great interest. Cabell's report concluded:

The majority of reported incidents are reliable to the extent that they have involved sighting of some object or light phenomenon. . . . There are numerous reports from reliable and competent observers for which a conclusive explanation has not been made. Some of these involve descriptions which would place them in the category of new manifestations of probable natural phenomena but others involve configurations and described performance which might conceivably represent an advanced aerodynamic development. A few unexplained incidents surpass these limits of credibility.

It is unlikely that a foreign power would expose a superior aerial weapon by a prolonged ineffectual penetration of the United States.⁹⁴

Apparently this report implied through carefully crafted wording Cabell's own view that flying saucers were a tangible phenomena but that they were not the product of another foreign (meaning Soviet) power. Oddly, however, the very next day Cabell ordered copies of the old AIR 100-203-79 reprinted and distributed even though that document had been approved back in December 1948 with a conclusion suggestive that the flying saucers might be connected to the Soviets. He would then demand a year later that AIR 100-203-79 be destroyed—which it was not.⁹⁵

And as stated, this all occurred right in the same time frame as the "Project Saucer" press release and the *Saturday Evening Post* articles by Shallet. Is there a connection? All that is known for sure is that the *Post* article and "Project Saucer" press

release marked the beginning of the media's reliance on the Air Force to explain away all those sightings.⁹⁶ That was not at all what the new and very self-conscious air arm actually wanted. They would have preferred to concentrate on what they were good at—military aviation. Flying saucers were obscuring that image and giving a lot of headaches to generals trying to justify the recent establishment of a separate air service—one that was still in the shadow of the more venerable Army and Navy. The saucer reports may have also been an embarrassment because a huge portion of their budget was then going to build up the Strategic Air Command (SAC). They knowingly did this at the sacrifice of the Air Defense Command (ADC)—claiming that the *best defense is a strong offense*.

Despite the fact that in December of 1949 President Truman announced the Air Force would receive the biggest percentage of funding of all the services, few in the Air Force wanted any indication that America had an air defense problem.⁹⁷ This was especially true when vast amounts of money were being diverted away from fighter planes and radar installations in a trade-off for long-range bombers. If the press did convince the public that flying saucers were real (whatever "real" meant)—the Air Force would have to share authority with the Army and Navy and concentrate on the air defense of North America. That of course, would be a staggering task in the dawning age of supersonic aircraft and missiles. It is an issue we are still debating today with the proposed SDI.

THE COLD WAR CONTINUES

The whole issue was magnified even further when only a few months earlier in September 1949 radioactivity was detected near Russia's borders by USAF and RAF reconnaissance planes. Days later President Truman announced to the world that the Soviets had test-exploded their first atomic bomb. The President had privately debated the idea of trying to cover the fact up to prevent a hysteria. Truman finally concluded the public had a right to know.⁹⁸

Major General Cabell had just piloted a B-29 into Ladd AFB during a stopover from a return trip from Japan when he heard the news of the Soviet atomic test.⁹⁹ It would be interesting to know his thoughts as the general sat in an old B-17 the next day heading back to Washington. (It is ironic to note that Cabell was always a much stronger supporter of the ADC than SAC.¹⁰⁰)

Researchers know that the detonation of the first Soviet nuclear device spurred some intense debate in the Pentagon in regard to air defense. Much of this concern centered around the realization that not only was the ADC under equipped with modern jet fighters, but there was little adequate radar coverage of North America.¹⁰¹ Despite the recent establishment of the "Lashup" interim radar positioning system, the military surveillance of U.S. airspace was extremely piecemeal. Most radar sights were not even manned on a 24-hour basis! Out of only nine large radar facilities, four of these were in Washington state near the Boeing aircraft plant and Hanford nuclear facility while the remaining three were in or near Long Island. The Lashup system only consisted of about 44 sites mostly composed of old WWII radar equipment. Although plans were underway for a vast radar network, it was a decade away from reality. As aviation

authority Joel Carpenter states:

. . . the radar technology available in the late 1940s with Lashup's old AN/CPS-5, and even its newer General Electric AN/CPS-6B surveillance [radar] units, were unable to reliably paint targets below roughly 5,000 feet, an uncomfortably high base which could allow a large aircraft to approach a target undetected.

. . . In the fall of 1949, in the wake of the detection of the Soviet nuclear test, Air Force Vice Chief of Staff General Muir Fairchild assigned the task of defining an adequate air defense radar network to General Samuel Anderson, Director of Plans and Operations. Anderson appointed his deputy, Colonel T.J. Dayharsh, to head a study group on the problem. The study group's proposal was to be known as the "Blue Book plan."

First presented at a meeting of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on March 2, 1950, the "Blue Book" air defense plan envisioned a workable permanent national radar network to be put in place by July 1, 1952. However, this date was also thought to represent the "critical date when the Soviets would pose a dangerous threat." The Air Force's Director of Intelligence, General Cabell, projected that by that time the USSR would possess as many as 90 nuclear bombs and enough Tu-4 bombers—copies of the Boeing B-29—to carry them to U.S. targets.¹⁰²

It is unknown if the "Blue Book" air defense proposal of 1949/50 had a connection with the later 1952 UFO project by that same name. It is, nevertheless, a very intriguing point that needs more research.

There is also no way of ascertaining if the growing Cold War posed a developing connection in Cabell's mind to the persistent flying saucer problem. Many confusing loose ends still challenge researchers. But the evidence is becoming *overwhelming* that many of the top brass like Cabell believed that flying saucers warranted concern. That attention undoubtedly overlapped with air defense issues. Although the more interrelated saucers became with air defense, the stronger the government's efforts seemed to intensify to publicly suppress the subject in general. Was this simply to prevent a distraction from Cold War tensions?

Major General Cabell could have even been one of those to refine the notion that flying saucers posed a threat to national security. This would later be a cause taken up by the CIA. The idea followed that UFO/flying saucer sightings could create a state of hysteria and thus retard reaction time in the event that a Soviet attack did come. In other words, people would be so infatuated with flying saucers that they would tie up communication lines to the Pentagon. Even military men might ignore sightings of attacking Soviet aircraft thinking they were just some more bizarre flying saucers. UFOs, on the other hand (meaning possible enemy aircraft), were what Major General Cabell and certainly men like Colonel Watson wanted people focused on.¹⁰³

Another somewhat odd but also very real mindset of that time surrounded concerns over creating a state of panic similar to the one believed to have been demonstrated by Orson Welles' well-known 1938 Halloween eve CBS radio drama. On that famous night the dramatic actor Orson Welles produced and narrated a play based on H.G. Wells' book, *The War of the Worlds*. Like the classic account of a Martian invasion, the radio show was a frightening success. Unfortunately for many East Coast listeners, it seemed so real that some were claimed to have flown into a panicked frenzy—actually believing aliens were landing in Grovers Mill, New Jersey.

This theory may have been reinforced by a similar incident in Ecuador on Saturday, February 12, 1949. In that case, 15 persons were killed and many injured when mobs became enraged after a local radio play based on *The War of the World* aired. The details are not confirmed, but the *point of the story is* that it made headlines in U.S. newspapers.¹⁰⁴

While concern over these two incidents may sound ridiculous today, this author is convinced it was a very real mind-set of government officials from that time. Intelligence veterans who wish to remain anonymous in this article have told me that top level authorities in the Pentagon gave great weight to the *The War of the Worlds* radio drama analogy. Of course, the clear implication here is that in order for those same officials to subscribe to such a theory, they must have believed that the discs were extraterrestrial in origin!

Kenneth Arnold, the man whose sighting back in 1947 started the press coverage of UFOs, adds further to the whole tale. The Air Force may have even said he complicated the situation when he sold his story in 1948 to the first issue of *Fate* magazine. *Fate* was created by noted pulp literature promoter Ray Palmer—the P.T. Barnum of saucer lore.

By the late 1949 time frame, Arnold's account was gaining fame along with subsequent stories in *Fate* which pandered to UFO mysteries. For some reason saucer haters in the Pentagon then came to the belief that "Sidney Shallet had crossed them" because the frequency of reports had hit a new high following *The Saturday Evening Post* article. The Air Force proceeded to downplay the new sightings. Their statements aimed at minimizing the situation only made it worse. Air Force Office of Public Relations Chief Colonel DeWitt Searles was quoted as saying:

No, no, a thousand times no. As far as the Air Force goes, there's no such thing as a flying saucer. Further, there are no such things as flying chromium hub caps, flying dimes, flying teardrops, flying gas lights, flying ice cream cones, or flying pie plates. Thank you and good-by.¹⁰⁵

Actually, the whole series of events became the genesis of a small but determined group of individuals espousing a UFO cover-up. This theme matured in late December 1949 with a widely read article by Annapolis graduate Major Donald Keyhoe in *True* magazine. Entitled "The Flying Saucers Are Real," it became a phenomenal sensation. The Air Force then only added to the growing conspiracy mentality by

announcing the cancellation of Project Grudge at the same time that Keyhoe's article appeared around the 27th of December.

This seemed to give legitimacy to his thesis. Soon, Keyhoe had his *True* article expanded into the first of many successful books on UFOs—*The Flying Saucers Are Real*. In fact, over the next 25 years he would remain a best-selling author by exploiting a conspiracy mentality suggesting the government actively sought to hide facts about UFOs.¹⁰⁶

THE DARK AGES

Whether Keyhoe was right or wrong, researchers do know that Grudge never rebounded from the mysterious changes that surrounded its evolution from Sign. By late 1949 "some group" within the Air Force seemed ready to forget about flying saucers, and on December 27, 1949, they issued press release 629-49. Press release 629-49 effected the liquidation of Grudge. At the Pentagon, Major General Cabell then canceled all previously issued directives which were geared to collect information on UFOs—called collection memos. He ordered that the new sightings would be handled through *regular* intelligence channels.

The files at WPAFB were placed in storage, some apparently taken as souvenirs, and most of the project personnel were transferred to other duties. Edward Ruppelt later recalled this as the "dark ages" of official interest in UFOs.¹⁰⁷ Technically closed, Colonel Watson put James Rodgers on the officially defunct assignment to provide a mechanism for the handling of new saucer reports. Although haphazardly compiled, files therefore do exist under the Grudge code word for the period following the supposed closure of the project.¹⁰⁸ Thus, Project Grudge did not completely die but just went underground and remained even more low-key than ever.

This is evident in statements released to the *Dayton Journal* around that time. One article read "Air Materiel Command officials said last night they would investigate reports of the flying saucers despite the statements of Air Force officials Tuesday [Dec. 27]."¹⁰⁹ Another article read "a rocket authority stationed at WPAFB had told Air Force personnel flatly that the saucers are interplanetary and that no other conclusion is possible."¹¹⁰

That source almost assuredly had to have been Alfred Loedding or Lawrence Truettner. As has already been shown, Loedding and Truettner were not working on UFOs (in the flying saucer sense of the word) by that time but apparently retained their passionate interest in the subject.

In contrast to all this, most of America's over 1,600 newspapers carried just the general Pentagon comments: "Air Force said 'Project Flying Saucer'—the investigation started by the Air Materiel Command at Wright Patterson Air Force base. . . has been ended because there is nothing to show that the reports were 'not the result of natural phenomenon.'"¹¹¹ Another such typical article read:

Flying Saucers—There Aren't Any, AF Decides

Washington, Dec. 28, UP, After checking up on 375 rumors of

weird and wondrous sights in the sky, the Air Force has concluded that there aren't any "flying saucers."

It took two years, a special team from the USAF's scientific staff, and help from university consultants to track down the rumors of strange discs whizzing through the air.

. . . All evidence, it added, points to three factors—"misinterpretation of various conventional objects; a mild form of mass hysteria; or hoaxes" as the origin of the flying saucer reports.

Under Air Force definition, "various conventional objects" including such things as meteors, balloon, birds in flight or just ordinary optical illusions.¹¹²

Despite the "official" Air Force policy, Major General Cabell retained an interest in flying saucer activity. Less than a year after the official closure of Grudge, he revived an effort to study the phenomena and reneged on the earlier cancellation of collection memos.

Simultaneously, however, the AMC, via Colonel Watson, then tried to promote the idea that the ADC should assume the job of investigating the saucer sightings. On April 23, 1951, Colonel Watson even went so far as to request in writing that Dayton be relieved of the responsibility. More of his letter will be quoted later, but in part Watson stated:

This command has investigated thousands of reports on unidentified flying objects over the past several years. The project was originally initiated at the Air Materiel Command several years ago as a result of numerous incidents occurring throughout the country where people indicated that they had seen unidentified flying objects, or so-called flying saucers. Extensive investigations of many incidents were made and conclusions were drawn on each incident and insofar as the facts available would permit, it was concluded that the objects do not represent a development of any foreign power.¹¹³

There was a lot going on behind the scenes by the spring of 1950 which had revived the issue in the halls of the Pentagon. Besides concern over an increase in press coverage spurred on by a number of sightings by airline pilots, there were incidents that were not known to the public. These involved good reports by qualified observers which had occurred at secure military and nuclear facilities just as they had in late 1948 and early 1949 when Project Sign was dismantled.

The saucer sightings near highly secure nuclear sites were as the Air Force had stated the year before—no joke. Dozens of excellent cases appear in the files and most involved very credible witnesses who without a doubt did see something. Whatever the reported phenomena represented, incidents at Oak Ridge and Los Alamos certainly

startled Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) officials.

A sighting at the latter involved 12 AEC inspectors who observed a "flying cylinder" on February 25, 1950. Amazingly, during a later incident on October 15, the AEC reported a "bullet shaped" object hovering below fence level right outside the main gate of one of its plants!¹¹⁴

A May 25, 1950, memo to the Air Force's Director of Special Investigations demonstrates that nuclear scientists, AFOIN's own agents and Los Alamos security inspectors, considered the UFO reports that year to be very disturbing. Those were just part of 241 cases for 1950 which came into the technically non-existent Grudge project, with 27 being indexed as unidentified.¹¹⁵

Even Canada was experiencing an increase in sightings in 1950. Preeminent ufologist Barry Greenwood comments on this:

In a Canadian Department of Transport memo dated November 21, 1950, Wilbert B. Smith, a senior radio engineer, forwarded a proposal to the Department's controller of telecommunications suggesting various studies such as using the Earth's magnetic field as an energy source. The memo also alluded to flying saucers:

a) The matter is the most highly classified subject in the United States Government, rating higher even than the H-bomb.

b) Flying saucers exist.

c) Their modes operands is unknown but concentrated effort is being made by a small group headed by Doctor Vannevar Bush.

[This may have been the Research and Development Board.]¹¹⁶

d) The entire matter is considered by the United States authorities to be of tremendous significance.

The memo was classified "TOP SECRET."¹¹⁷

Despite all that activity, Colonel Watson gave little attention to the new reports. There may have been a reason for his less than enthusiastic attitude. Although Cabell had encouraged Watson all along to continue investigations into the saucer reports, he did not provide detailed direction in the matter. Basically, throughout 1949 and 1950, Major General Cabell largely delegated the responsibility. It was his staff who often suggested policy to Watson's TID operation in Dayton—via the AMC.

For example, despite Cabell's general interest in the subject, Brigadier General Walter Agee, Cabell's AFOIR Chief, stated in a draft letter on April 7, 1950: "The opinion of the Air Force is that all reports of flying saucers are considered to be mythical and are of no concern to national security at present."¹¹⁸ Brigadier General Moore (who became Cabell's first Assistant for Production—AFOIN-A) sent a directive on October 12, 1950, to TID that stipulated investigations were to be kept very low-key.¹¹⁹

There were indeed other issues at hand than flying saucers. The urgency of the Cold War continued to overshadowed all but that most pressing earthly problem—war. An interview on June 6, 1950, by *New York Times* reporter Walter W. Ruch with Air

University Commanding General George C. Kenney exemplifies the prevailing attitude. General Kenney was quoted as stating that the Soviet's version of the B-29 "would become obsolete in the not far distant future. . . [and wondered outloud] if they intend to let their long-range striking force become obsolete without using it."¹²⁰ Combined with the outbreak of war in Korea later that month, the world political situation grew extremely tense.

Yet unexplainably, Colonel Watson then *seemingly* started to go out of his way to give interviews to reporters—freely talking about the saucer reports although doing so with a skeptical tone. In a January 1951 *Cosmopolitan* article by Bob Considine, Colonel Watson was quoted directly and indirectly. In the feature he ridiculed those who reported flying saucers and even included Air Force pilots in that category! Colonel Watson was directly quoted as stating that:

Try to get this over to the people, he asked. There are no flying saucers, no "little men," no burned saucer wreckage or pieces of flying saucers, no disappearing parachutists, no potential enemy with any craft of this sort, and none of our own design. There just ain't no such animal, but tracking down the nonexistent cause of mass hysteria is still costing us—and you—plenty.¹²¹

Edward Ruppelt wrote in his personal papers that he later overheard Colonel Watson gloat about how he "completely snowed Considine."¹²² It would be interesting to know if that meant that Colonel Watson did not actually believe in what he told Considine and/or he was just repeating the official Air Force line.

Those who knew Colonel Watson *stress* to the author that it must be remembered that he was a very flamboyant type of individual—who is fondly remembered as keeping the TID technical art department in those days busy producing portraits of himself. Often seen driving onto base in an unregistered German sports car that he smuggled back from Europe along with other Operation Lusty spoils of war, Watson was truly a larger-than-life personality. Many recall how a room could become energized just by his mere entrance. Nevertheless, it was said that he was just as capable of putting his foot in his mouth as anybody. Apparently, like us all, he found himself inclined at times to speak in generalities before carefully thinking out the point he was making.

Other sources told the author, "Watson was a very practical engineering-minded man who did not lend himself to much other than concrete facts."¹²³ Combine that with a natural propensity to court positive public attention for the Air Force, and you may have the answer as to why Harold Watson was recalled by some as an "arch saucer killer."

Another very important factor not often considered involves conflicts between the areas of responsibility for the Air Defense Command (ADC) and the Air Materiel Command's TID intelligence group. Certainly, important questions arose as to each organization's mission when it came to UFOs.

That, in fact, is really what Colonel Watson's April 23, 1951, letter to Major General Cabell (already quoted in part), was about. The letter suggests that the ADC should be the organization primarily concerned with any unidentified aircraft. TID could handle analysis of saucer sightings but only if they had hard data to study. The letter continues:

. . . In August 1949 a report was prepared entitled "Unidentified Flying Objects Project Grudge," and the project was canceled.

In October 1950 the project was reinitiated at the request of your headquarters [AFOIN]. Since that time hundreds of reports have been received and investigated. The conclusions which have been drawn since the reinitiation of the project are for all practical purposes identical to those drawn in the earlier investigations.

In view of the above, it appears that the project as it exists has been carried on to such an extent that it has been established that there are little if any results being obtained which are significant from the standpoint of technical intelligence, other than to conclude that so-called unidentified aircraft are not considered to be air weapons of a foreign power. Notwithstanding this conclusion, it is considered that it would be impracticable in connection with Air Force responsibilities to say that we are no longer interested in any incidents of aforementioned nature.

Accordingly, it is felt that the project requirements should be revised to assure that all unidentified aircraft are reported without delay and by expeditious means to the Air Defense Command. [Note Colonel Watson's use of the phrase "unidentified aircraft."] In the event that any of these incidents require technical interpretation or analysis, AMC could be called on to carry out this work as required by ADC provided that sufficient significant technical details are supplied to furnish a basis for such study.

Further, since a large number of official reports on unidentified aircraft are routed directly through AMC apparently with no contacts being made with the Air Defense command, it is obvious that if an unidentified flying object turned out to be an enemy aircraft, current procedures would be entirely inadequate. [Note Colonel Watson's contrast between unidentified objects and unidentified aircraft.] While it is assumed that the Air Defense Command is concerned with unidentified aircraft incidents in connection with established air defense responsibilities, it is significant to note that no Air Defense Command reports on such incidents as concerned with AMC projects have been received by this command.

Due to the above, it is recommended that the directives

governing responsibilities related to investigation of unidentified flying objects be reviewed and consideration be given to shifting the emphasis to Air Defense Command responsibilities, using the AMC as a technical intelligence service organization as required.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL

/s/ Harold E. Watson

In other words, here was Colonel Watson's point: Obviously, the ADC was the group whose job it was to intercept any intruding or unknown aircraft into U.S. airspace. The ADC also collected its own intelligence in regard to unidentified aircraft. Watson's TID intelligence group did this as well but focused more on the specific analysis of the aerodynamics of foreign aircraft. To do that, however, they required hard data or physical components such as a captured aircraft or at the very least a piece of it. So both groups needed more information to do their jobs. But, where was the line to be drawn between UFOs—i.e. unidentified aircraft, and flying saucers?

Researchers now know that in regard to this, Major General Cabell became concerned with issues surrounding CIRVIS reports. CIRVIS reports stood for Communication Instructions For Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings. If a commercial or military pilot spotted an unidentified object, they were instructed to file a CIRVIS report. CIRVIS reports actually originated from JANAP-146. (JANAP stood for Joint Army-Navy-Air Force Publication.) The *whole idea* of the CIRVIS system was simply to provide a mechanism for reporting possible enemy activity such as military troop movements, submarine sightings, or enemy aircraft—not necessarily as a conduit for gathering saucer reports.

That was the issue which concerned Cabell. In other words, how to define the responsibilities of TID and ADC as it pertained to CIRVIS reports? Most agreed that the ADC was to chase enemy intruders (or real UFOs) and TID to handle the sightings that were not so easily identifiable—the flying saucer reports. The problem was getting the pertinent CIRVIS report to the correct agency.

Actually, the CIRVIS issue has a long history. Even back during WWII, there was a Communication Instructions for Reporting Enemy Sightings (CIRES) reporting system. After the war, U.S. Navy Reserve Commander Bernard Baruch, Jr. contacted the Joint Communication Board.¹²⁴ Baruch wanted a directive similar to the CIRES system used during the war to handle special intelligence messages. Since he was very well connected politically, his suggestion was later considered. In the meantime, since the abbreviation CIRES was well known, a new peacetime procedure was proposed and changed to Communication Instructions for Reporting Emergency Sightings (CIRES). Because most aviation personnel were familiar with the abbreviation, the change of the long title had the effect of making the procedures sound innocuous, and it was hoped that this would avoid any possible international complications.

Communication Instructions for Reporting Military Intelligence Sightings (CIRMIS) was the real precursor of note. It evolved in 1948 during discussions of the first proposal of JANAP-146. Cabell then requested that flying saucer reports be included in the publication in a memo dated September 9, 1948, after Colonel McCoy

had made a similar recommendation. After much discussion and disagreement by the intelligence community, JANAP-146 dated October 1, 1948, was in final draft. However, continued disagreement about the inclusion of airline pilots as observers and other provisions caused Major General Cabell to request that the regulation be tabled. So it was delayed and ordered to be modified.

Jan Aldrich discovered an early JANAP-146 draft dated December 14, 1949, which stipulated CIRVIS reports should serve as a mechanism to "provide instructions for reporting vital intelligence sightings from military aircraft and certain specifically designated U.S. Flag commercial aircraft." The document states their reports should include sightings of:

a. Guided Missiles.

b. Unidentified flying objects. [This is a notable early use of the phrase UFO.]

c. Submarines.

d. Group or groups of military vessels.

e. Formations of aircraft (which appear to be directed against the United States, its territories or possessions.)¹²⁵

The process to make the modifications, apparently involved a great deal of discussion. Reserve Commander Bernard Baruch continued to take interest in the subject and because he had great influence, he urged Major General Cabell to discuss it with General Vandenberg and Air Force Secretary Stuart Symington. Cabell disliked this interference and thought the issue could dangerously split intelligence reporting procedures. But a revised JANAP-146A version, was *officially* issued on September 25, 1950. However, when Colonel Watson wrote his April 1951 letter to Major General Cabell, the controversy was revived.

Colonel Watson basically stated that he felt *unidentified aircraft* reports should go to the ADC and only cases involving analysis work on the more unfounded saucer sightings be sent to TID. Although the wording between the lines in his letter suggested that there were no such things as flying saucers. Thus, in theory, it was a way to get rid of the issue altogether.

An AFOIN staff study in October of 1951 was then initiated to deal with the issue of CIRVIS reports and how they might pertain to flying saucer sightings. Just as Colonel Watson was complaining, AFOIN was similarly concerned over the distinction of UFOs as opposed to flying saucers.

The study developed not just because of Watson's April 23 letter, but because so many CIRVIS reports were describing flying saucer phenomena as opposed to UFO events that might represent foreign aircraft or missile activity. And as demonstrated by the language of the related documents, CIRVIS reports were designed to prevent another Pearl Harbor—not necessarily to collect saucer reports.

In that way Colonel Watson was correct, why should a report of a possible hostile unidentified aircraft first be routed through AMC/TID? Air Force regulations, however, said that all unidentified aircraft/object reports were to be sent to AMC's TID

unit. On the other hand, CIRVIS reports were, in theory, to go to the ADC. Yet, many CIRVIS reports were not concerned with enemy activity but saucer sightings. Many of those never made it to TID! So it truly was a *mess*.

The staff study was finally complete on October 22, 1951, and went to Major General Cabell. Cabell decided that TID (by then renamed the ATIC) would retain responsibility for handling the flying saucer-type cases. AFOIN, in fact, made the conclusion that the saucer reports should keep going to Dayton because the subject "concerns both technical intelligence and air defense."¹²⁶

The *true* UFO reports representing enemy violations of U.S. air space were to go to the ADC. Cabell also initiated orders that the CIRVIS reporting system should somehow be modified to identify the flying saucer accounts from the general mass of reports because he did not want ATIC bothered with the task.

In fact, it seems that Cabell finally wanted to be free of CIRVIS reports entirely and that's mainly why he wanted ADC to keep handling them. However, the promise to fix the conflicting reporting system was never fulfilled and by 1952 huge numbers of CIRVIS reports were filed with the ADC, not warning of possible enemy action but of strange aerial activity that only today are referred to as UFOs.¹²⁷

THE PRELUDE TO PROJECT BLUE BOOK

It should also be stated that there are other points to consider. Research conducted by Professor Michael Swords of Western Michigan University suggests that Colonel Watson was just outright skeptical of flying saucer sightings and hellbent on disposing of the controversial issue altogether. This is significant because although Major General Cabell had completely delegated saucer issues, he assumed from his office in the Pentagon that such reports were at least being properly documented in Dayton. In fact, his directive following the October 1951 staff study on CIRVIS reports stated to ATIC:

It is desired that your headquarters energetically conduct a continuing analysis of information and material you receive on this subject, and further that you remain prepared to provide this headquarters with up-to-date information¹²⁸

Only much later did Cabell finally catch on to the fact that many of his subordinates in AFOIN analysis were less focused on the investigative side of the issue. They apparently preferred to just downplay the whole subject both publicly and privately. But by 1950, Cabell had more opportunity to focus his attention on other matters—like flying saucers. An extensive divisional reorganization had finally been completed. Although war in Korea had broken out, Cabell then became more and more attentive to the sightings.

Accomplished UFO researcher and writer Brad Sparks contends that Major General Cabell used an officer from his own AFOIN staff as a UFO field investigator around 1950 to 1951. This was Lieutenant Colonel Milton D. Willis of the Technical Capabilities Branch of the AFOIN Evaluation Division.¹²⁹ Willis eventually replaced Boggs

for a brief period as the AFOIN liaison to Project Grudge.

Around that time Watson and Cabell came to loggerheads over the saucer investigations. Edward Ruppelt again gives insight in his personal papers stating: "[Major] General Cabell is reported to have climbed all over him [Colonel Porter] and Colonel Watson for conspiring to get rid of the UFO project in 1950."¹³⁰ By 1951, Cabell had asked to be informed about any information passing through Grudge, no matter how trivial. Yet, Colonel Watson with assistance from former Sign member Albert Deyarmond were *apparently* preventing a dissemination of sightings in the chain of command. It also seems, so was his project head of Grudge, James Rodgers.

This did change somewhat by mid-1951. At that point, Colonel Watson was preparing for a reassignment. That was also about the time Lieutenant Edward Ruppelt (who had only recently been recalled to active duty with the coming of war in Korea) became interested in UFOs. By the summer and fall of 1951, Ruppelt began taking note of the reports coming into the reorganized ATIC operation. Actually, he could not have possibly helped but hear about them because he was working right in the Analysis Division's Aircraft and Propulsion Section. A brief passage from Edward Ruppelt's unedited manuscript to *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* helps construct a more detailed picture of Colonel Watson's final months:

I'd only been at ATIC two days [January 1951] and I certainly didn't class myself as an intelligence "expert" . . . I didn't hear anything about UFO's, or "flying saucers" as they were then known, for several weeks, but I kept them in mind and one day I asked one of the "old hands" at ATIC about them—specifically I wanted to know about the Sioux City Incident. [A well publicized UFO report from January 20, 1951.] Why had it been sloughed off so lightly? His answer was typical of the official policy at that time. "One of these days all of these crazy pilots will kill themselves, the crazy people on the ground will be locked up and there won't be any more flying saucer reports."

But after I got to know the people at ATIC a little better, I found that being anti-saucer wasn't a unanimous feeling. Some of the intelligence officers took the UFO reports seriously. One man, who had been on Project Sign since it was organized back in 1947, [sic, 1948] was convinced that the UFO's were interplanetary spaceships. [Ruppelt may be referring to Albert Deyarmond despite the fact that Deyarmond was then officially supportive of Colonel Watson's low profile attitudes toward flying saucers.] He had questioned the people in the control tower at Godman AFB when Capt. Mantell was killed chasing the "UFO," and he had spent hours talking to the crew of the DC-3 that was buzzed near Montgomery, Alabama, by a "cigar-shaped UFO that spouted blue flame." In essence he knew UFO history from A to Z because he had "been there." I took his ideas with a grain of salt, but I had

to admit that they were more logical than the B-36 answer to the Sioux City Incident.

I think that it was this controversial thinking that first got me really interested in the subject of UFO's and led me to try to sound out a few more people.

The one thing that stood out to me, being unindoctrinated in the ways of UFO lore, was the schizophrenic approach so many people at ATIC took. On the surface they sided with the belly-laughers on any saucer issue, but if you were alone with them and started to ridicule the subject, they defended it or at least took an active interest. I learned this one day after I'd been at ATIC about a month.

A belated UFO report had come in from Africa. One of my friends was reading it, so I asked him if I could take a look at it when he had finished. In a few minutes he handed it to me but told me to return it to him because the library had him charged with it. The report said that on February 25, [sic, Feb. 19] 1951, the crew and all the passengers of an airliner flying near Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanganyika, had observed a UFO for 17 minutes. All of the observers, nine men and two women, agreed that the UFO was shaped like a V-2 rocket, was whiteish-silver in color, with three black bands around the body. One of the passengers had taken movies of the UFO and there were supposedly still prints from the movie with the report. Somewhere in the shuffle they'd been lost, however, because there was a comment written on the face of the report, "Photos were not attached." Later I made several unsuccessful attempts to find these photos.

When I finished with the report I tossed it back on my friend's desk with some comment about the whole world being nuts. I got a reaction I didn't expect; he wasn't so sure the whole world was nuts—maybe the nuts were at ATIC. "What's the deal?" I asked him. "Have they really thoroughly checked out every report and found that there's nothing to any of them?"

He told me that he didn't think so, he'd been at ATIC [then TID] a long time. He hadn't ever worked on the UFO project, but he had seen many of their reports and knew what they were doing. He just plain didn't buy a lot of their explanations. "And I'm not the only one who thinks this," he added.

"Then why all the big show of power against the UFO reports?" I remember asking him.

"The powers-that-be are anti-flying saucer," he answered about half bitterly, "and to stay in favor it behooves one to follow suit."¹³¹

Because of manpower shortages, Ruppelt was also being asked to lend a hand to Lieutenant Jerry W. Cummings. Cummings had taken over the administration of a very lethargic Project Grudge from James Rodgers in June of 1951. Ruppelt's private papers detail that earlier transition:

In about June 1951 Jerry Cummings somehow got interested in UFOs. He mentioned it and Al Deyarmond, [then temporarily head of the Aircraft and Propulsion Section] thinking it was a bum detail gave the Project to him. Jerry refused to be intimidated and announced that there was more to UFOs than people thought and set about to prove it. Deyarmond didn't like it because his buddy Rodgers had had the project and loused it up. There were some big hassles which included the famous R&R.¹³²

Cummings and Ruppelt had desks close to each other in a large open room within one of five long warehouse buildings which was occupied by ATIC's Analysis Division. This was collectively called Building 263. Both men faced Lieutenant Colonel Rosengarten's office. Not only did they develop a friendship while working for Lieutenant Colonel Rosengarten, but they both greatly liked and admired their chief—who, privately, they affectionately called Rosie. Rosengarten was chief of the Performance and Characteristics Branch under the Aircraft and Propulsion Section of the ATIC's Analysis Division.

Lieutenant Cummings thus easily consulted with Ruppelt and at times Rosengarten allowed him to "borrow" him for assistance. Ruppelt was already greatly valued for his engineering degree—not to mention being prized as one of the few officers on staff who could wield a typewriter. So Cummings made good use of Ruppelt's administrative talents as did Rosengarten for a whole host of chores, most of which had nothing to do with flying saucers.

Because sightings in general had declined so much in frequency by the 1951 time period, it seems Colonel Watson was then paying little attention to the subject. His Analysis chief, Colonel Brunow W. Feiling, also became a disinterested participant when it came to saucer investigations. Watson and Feiling, for whatever reason, apparently thought flying saucers were an old story by then. Yet, they did not know how interested in the subject young Lieutenant Jerry Cummings would become.

The files clearly show that from the moment Cummings took over, he served as an interested and objective investigator of the reports coming across his desk. In addition to this "Red" Honaker may have played a part, too. Honaker, Colonel Watson's old friend and point man, may have cut Cummings (and later Ruppelt) a lot of slack. Honaker, as has been explained, was the former assistant to Project Sign and had become as convinced in the extraterrestrial hypothesis as Loedding and Deyarmond. But unlike Loedding, Honaker and Deyarmond had the savvy to keep their opinions to themselves when flying saucers suddenly became a politically incorrect issue.

Despite their cautious attitude and the dedication they had shown to Colonel Watson, Honaker and Deyarmond *seemingly* would both later give Ruppelt a lot of behind the scenes assistance during the heyday of Project Blue Book. However, prior to

the "Age of Ruppelt," Colonel Watson was transferred out of ATIC to a reassignment to General Lauris Norstad's command in Europe which would prove an important landmark in his career.

Then, on October 2, 1951, Jerry Cummings ended up at a Pentagon meeting with Major General Cabell. Cummings, in attendance with Lieutenant Colonel Rosengarten, was to give a briefing on recent sightings which they had investigated at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. But Cummings also took the liberty of telling Cabell about a lot of the behind the scenes mess at Grudge which had occurred under Colonel Watson's reign.

Soon after that, Cabell called for a reorganized effort on UFOs. Cabell sent word down to ATIC (which by then was a formal directorate of AFOIN), to reactivate or create a new Project Grudge. Colonel Frank Dunn, who had earlier moved from AFOIN to become Colonel Watson's Deputy Commander at ATIC, had succeeded Colonel Watson. Now Dunn was instructed to give greater attention to the persistent flying saucer problem.¹³³ He did, in fact, do just that.¹³⁴

Also on his way out, was the chief of Analysis at ATIC, Colonel Brunow Feiling—replaced by the up and coming and more objective Colonel S.H. Kirkland, Jr., who was already in place at ATIC by late September 1951. Colonel E.H. Porter's assistant and Pentagon liaison to ATIC, arch saucer-killer Jerry Boggs, was out too—being temporarily replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Milton D. Willis before Major Dewey Fournet took his position. Fournet would, in contrast to Boggs, adopt an eventual very pro-saucer approach.

Nevertheless, Colonel Porter remained and was by then Deputy Director for Estimates at AFOIN. But UFO-friendly individuals working under Porter such as Colonel William A. Adams and Colonel Weldon Smith would soon have a significant impact on establishing a more open-minded approach. Smith worked under Adams who eventually became Chief of the Topical Intelligence Division for the Deputy Director for Estimates at the Directorate of Intelligence—AFOIN. During 1951 Adams was Deputy of the AFOIN Evaluation Division.

Major General Cabell himself was soon replaced by Major General John A. Samford on November 1, 1951—being promoted to Lieutenant General and assuming the position of Director of the Joint Staff for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.¹³⁵ Cummings then left the Air Force and Lieutenant Edward Ruppelt more or less fell into the position of chief of the new revived UFO investigation at ATIC which was renamed Project Blue Book on March 14, 1952. Lieutenant Colonel. Rosengarten had handpicked him for that assignment although even Rosengarten soon transferred out of ATIC.

Project Blue Book, like Project Sign, had an interesting heyday. That was until the CIA took an interest in UFOs by 1953 and Colonel Watson returned to Dayton in 1954 to reclaim the helm of ATIC. Understandably, the story of Project Blue Book and the many changes it underwent until disbanded in late 1969 is a whole other story.

¹ Record Group 341, Records of Headquarters, USAF, National Archives, Entry 284D.

² Ruppelt, *Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, pp. 40-41.

³ It is interesting to note that Cabell used the phrase in his memoirs that he was "relieved" from duty as Director of Intelligence. In the context of that he complained about how during his tenure as Director of Air Force Intelligence, that AFOIN was not made part of the decision making process. Major General Cabell apparently had a good working relationship with General Vandenberg but was not allowed to routinely attend very many of the top meetings which the Chief of Staff held. He says on page 273: "It is not possible to get all that intelligence has to contribute if its role is restricted to the advance preparation of a paper making an 'estimate' and to the presentation of an intelligence briefing. For full effectiveness there must be intelligence participation at the decision-making sessions." Cabell states, however, that after Brigadier General Walter Bedell Smith took over the CIA (7 October 1950–9 February 1953), there eventually was better networking and Cabell says not until Smith's time was there a true "Intelligence Community" as such.—Charles P. Cabell, *A Man of Intelligence: Memoirs of War, Peace and the CIA* (Colorado, Colorado Springs: Impavide Publications, 1997), p. 273, 243-251.

⁴ Bill Yenne, *History Of The U.S. Air Force* (Greenwich, CT: Longmeadow Press, 1992), pp. 43-45.

⁵ Major General Cabell, who was already moonlighting as Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee, was promoted to Lt. General and became the Director of the Joint Staff for the Joint Chiefs of Staff on November 1, 1951. In January 1953, President Eisenhower's former chief of staff and Director of the CIA, Brigadier General Walter Bedell Smith (7 October 1950–9 February 1953), recommended Cabell to become the Deputy Director.

⁶ Ruppelt's personal papers, File R022, courtesy of Professor Michael Swords.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ It should be stated that researcher Tom Tulien learned in a 1999 interview with Mrs. William Garland, that she did not feel her husband ever had a UFO sighting.

⁹ Ruppelt's unedited manuscript to *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, courtesy of Professor Michael Swords.

¹⁰ Ruppelt's personal papers, File R022, courtesy of Professor Michael Swords.

¹¹ Interview with Donald Loedding by Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, October 1997, June, August 1998, May 1999, e-mail correspondence with Don Loedding 17 December 2000.

¹² That fall of 1948 a warning to American military facilities was actually issued which stressed an alertness to any unidentified flying object. The alert read: "This Headquarters has instructed all major Air Commands, both in the ZI and Overseas, to be particularly alerted at this time for sightings of unidentified aerial objects and to generally comply with the requests contained in subject TWX. This Headquarters has also requested the cooperation of the Departments of the Army and the Navy, and the Coast Guard, in instructing their installations along the same lines.—FOIA request I-NAIC-97-053, WPAFB, Dayton, Ohio.

¹³ Research conducted by noted researcher and writer Brad Sparks.

¹⁴ Ruppelt's unedited manuscript to *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, courtesy of Professor Swords.

¹⁵ Interviews with Donald Loedding by Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, October 1997, June, August, 1998; and "Princeton Engineer Believes Flying Saucers Real Thing," *Trenton Sunday Times-Advertiser*, 10 October 1954.

¹⁶ It should be noted that it is primarily Edward Ruppelt's memoirs that state that the *Estimate* went up through the chain of command. It is assumed from his unedited manuscript to *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* that the *Estimate* was initially batted back down before it ever got to General Vandenberg. Ruppelt then infers in his unedited manuscript that the Sign team directly lobbied General Vandenberg to accept the *Estimate* but that he refused because of its extraterrestrial hypothesis. His original unedited manuscript states:

"While the people working on Project Sign were pondering over Lt. Gorman's 'duel to the death,' before they found out that his advisory was a lighted weather balloon, two things were taking place. One, the higher the *Estimate* of the Situation went in the Air Force chain of command the cooler the reception it got, and two, reports of radar picking up UFO's began to come in. How far the *Estimate* got is something that I could never determine, but it got up into the high echelons of the Air Force before it was batted back down. The reason for batting it down was the conclusions, interplanetary vehicles, lacked proof. A group from ATIC [TID] went to the Pentagon to sell the idea to the late General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, then Chief of Staff of the Air Force, but had no luck. The evidence just didn't impress him enough to make him decide to buy the interplanetary theory."

However, a 1954 interview with Alfred Loedding by the New Jersey *Trenton Sunday Times-Advertiser* indicates that it may have actually been the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board or a scientific advisor from the Board that had the most influence in having the *Estimate* rejected. A portion of the article reads as follows:

"Loedding contends that he was never given the funds or the manpower to handle the job properly. 'We couldn't begin to answer the correspondence. After some months, however, we had assembled a considerable volume of

firsthand reports. I traveled all over the country on 24-hour call to talk with persons who claimed they had seen the phenomena. There were a number of officers and civilian department heads, both at Wright Field and in Washington, who decided there was nothing to 'Flying Saucers' long before we started our investigation. There were others, like general Donald Put [sic] at Wright Field, who insisted that everyone keep an open mind. I don't see how anyone could ignore all of the competent sightings that were turned in. We had more than 100 reports from airline pilots, test pilots and officers and others.'

'I always wished that certain officers would have confronted the burly tech sergeant who saw the phenomena in Alabama and told him that what he really saw was the planet Venus. I didn't have that kind of physical courage the day I talked with him.'

Loedding was sent with his final report to one of the country's leading scientists who was asked to give a decision on the nature of flying saucers.

The celebrated scientist glanced at the lengthy report, according to Loedding, and concluded the same day that flying saucers are a figment of the imagination.

'Shortly thereafter I was informed that my stock in Washington had hit an all time low. The Air Force issued a news release to the effect that flying saucers are weather balloons or something and hoped, I suppose, that the matter would end there,' said Loedding.

What does he think flying saucers are? Loedding says he doesn't know, but he thinks man has much to learn about them. 'Some of them might be space ships. I don't think they are a Soviet invention. Actually I suspect that they may be a kind of space animal, a form of life protected by rays which we know nothing of and obtain fuel from space in [a] way that we do not comprehend I don't know. I only know that we should attempt to learn what they are,' concluded Loedding.—"Princeton Engineer Believes Flying Saucers Real Thing," *Trenton* (New Jersey) *Sunday Times-Advertiser*, 10 Oct. 1954.

Loedding's son Donald, nevertheless, does confirm that it was Vandenberg who had the most influence on rejecting Loedding's *Estimate* which Donald stresses his father was deeply disappointed over.—Interview with Donald Loedding by Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, October 1997, June, August, 1998, May 1999.

¹⁷ Ruppelt's unedited manuscript to *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*; Ruppelt, *Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, pp. 58-60; J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Report* (New York: Barnes & Noble Books, 1977/97), p. 4; and J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience, A Scientific Enquiry* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1972), pp. 194-200.

¹⁸ "Report by The Director Of Intelligence, USAF, to the Joint Intelligence Committee on Unidentified Aerial Objects," USAF Director of Intelligence Files, General File July 1945-December 1954, Records Group 341, Entry 214A, Stack Area 190, Row 66, Compartment 32-33, Shelf 03, Top Secret Control #2-7051-A, National Archives II, College Park, Maryland. (See Project 1947—<http://www.project1947.com/fig/jic.htm>.)

¹⁹ Project Blue Book Files, National Archives, Records Group 341, Microfilm Pub. No. T-1206, Roll No. 1-3; and Ruppelt, *Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, pp. 58-60.

²⁰ Air Force Office Of Special Investigation Files, contained within the Project Blue Book Files, National Archives, Records Group 341, Microfilm Pub. No. T-1206, Roll No. 88-92.

²¹ Memorandum, From: H.M. McCoy, To: C.S., USAF, 2 December 1948, CUFOs Files.

²² "Report by The Director Of Intelligence, USAF, to the Joint Intelligence Committee on Unidentified Aerial Objects," USAF Director of Intelligence Files, Records Group 341, Entry 214A, Stack Area 190, Row 66, Compartment 32-33, Shelf 03, Top Secret Control #2-7051-A, National Archives II, College Park, Maryland. (See Project 1947—<http://www.project1947.com/fig/jic.htm>.)

²³ FOIA request I-NAIC-97-053, Project Sign documents; and Letter From: H.M. McCoy, To: AFOIN, 2 December 1948, and related documents from the files of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Research (CUFOs). (Great appreciation goes to Dr. Mark Rodigier and Professor Michael Swords.)

²⁴ U.S. Air Force Headquarters, Air Intelligence Report 100-203-79, 10 December 1948. (See Project 1947—<http://www.project1947.com/fig/1948air.htm>.) (This refocusing of the project must have come at McCoy's dismay because he took the saucer reports very seriously. As advocates of an extraterrestrial scenario like Loedding and Truettner (nicknamed "saucer boys") were purged from the project, hard feelings developed—hence the possible origin of the new code name Grudge.)

²⁵ Record of Basic Correspondence, From: Gen. C.P. Cabell, 27 July 1948. (See Project 1947—<http://www.project1947.com/fig/cover1.htm>.)

²⁶ United States Air Force Headquarters, Air Intelligence Report 100-203-79, 10 December 1948. (See Project 1947—<http://www.project1947.com/fig/1948air.htm>.)

²⁷ Record of Basic Correspondence, From: Gen. C.P. Cabell, 27 July 1948.

- ²⁸ Memorandum, From: Brooke Allen, To: Chief Air Intelligence Division, 11 October 1948, CUFOs Files.
- ²⁹ Brigadier General Moore had served as commander of U.S. fighter aircraft forces on Iwo Jima during WWII.
- ³⁰ Record of Basic Correspondence, From: Gen. C.P. Cabell, 27 July 1948.
- ³¹ Correspondence with Professor Michael Swords.
- ³² Documents pertaining to Operation Paper Clip, courtesy of Ms. Jean August of the Materiel Air Command History Office, 1999.
- ³³ Michael David Hall, Wendy Ann Connors, *Alfred Loedding & The Great Flying Saucer Wave of 1947* (Albuquerque, New Mexico: Rose Press, 1998).
- ³⁴ "Princeton Engineer Believes Flying Saucers Real Thing," *Trenton Sunday Times-Advertiser*, 10 October 1954. (Dr. Lippisch had been part of the Paper Clip project which used former German scientists to provide voluntary technical assistance to American industry as well as military intelligence and research projects.)
- ³⁵ Michael D. Swords, "Donald E. Keyhoe and the Pentagon: The Rise of Interest in the UFO Phenomenon and What the Government Really Knew," *Journal Of UFO Studies* 6 (1995/96): 200.
- ³⁶ Memorandum For Director Of Intelligence and CNI from Brig. General, E. Moore, USAF Chief, Air Intelligence Division, 8 December 1948. (See Project 1947—<http://www.project1947.com/fig/moor8dec.htm>.)
- ³⁷ "USAFE 14, TT 1524, TOP SECRET, 4 Nov 1948," USAF Director of Intelligence Files, National Archives II, College Park, Maryland. (See Project 1947—<http://www.project1947.com/fig/usafe14.htm>.)
- ³⁸ Ibid.
- ³⁹ It is extremely curious that if Major General Cabell had seen Loedding's *Estimate* draft, that he would have initiated this correspondence. Some researchers state the real significance of this letter and Colonel McCoy's response simply concern early discussions on how to handle media inquiries into the sightings which the rest of the text admittedly does deal with. The other theory is that Cabell had read the *Estimate* draft and rejected an extraterrestrial conclusion and was now basically saying "tell me again what you think but keep it less speculative." It was shortly after the time period of these letters that the hatchet seems to have come down on Project Sign. Perhaps the part of McCoy's response quoted on the next page was the straw that broke the back of the project. An interesting retrospective insight on this comes from a 1949 inter office handwritten note by Major General Cabell. Cabell was responding to some accusations made by the AFOSI that AFOIN was not being objective to a rash of sightings that had occurred in the American Southwest since late 1948. Cabell's short note read as follows: "Send file around to General Moore so that he can take action to change the impression left in the minds of Col. Day Harsh and others that we 'tend to ridicule' the report. I'm sure Boggs did not mean to do so but all of us must remember that we were all pretty jittery about this ourselves and only as we got 'Grudge' well under way and had the advantage of careful analysis did we begin to relax a bit. We should applaud these other folks for being interested and leave them with the impression, which is a fact, that our evidence tends to discount any foreign aircraft being involved, but we are not sure and have project Grudge in being.—signed CPC"—Hand written note attached to 20 July 1949 AFOIN Routing and Record Sheet titled Report of Aerial Phenomena. Because research clearly shows that Cabell's staff DID ridicule the subject and that Grudge did LITTLE analysis work, he was either very misinformed about what was actually going on, or this letter is intended in a patronizing manner. Researcher Brad Sparks feels this note refers to a secret project Cabell set up through the AF Scientific Advisory Board to investigate green fire ball and other odd sightings in New Mexico in 1948-49. The project was to deliberately bypass Grudge. Sparks says it was AFOIN that did not understand the compartmentalization. When they made an inquiry prompting Cabell's damage control, it broke security by informing AMC/Grudge and effectively stopped Cabell's secret project.
- ⁴⁰ "Flying Object Incidents in the United States," From: C.B. Cabell, Department of the Air Force Headquarters, United States Air Force, To: Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, WPAFB, 3 November 1948, FOIA request I-NAIC-97-053, Project Sign and Grudge documents 1948-1949, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. (See Project 1947—<http://www.project1947.com/fig/1948b.htm>.)
- ⁴¹ "Flying Object Incidents in the United States," From: H. McCoy, via Headquarters, Air Materiel Command, WPAFB, To: Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, Washington 25, D.C., ATTN: AFOIR, 8 November 1948, FOIA request I-NAIC-97-053, Project Sign and Grudge documents 1948-1949, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. (See Project 1947—<http://www.project1947.com/fig/1948c.htm>.)
- ⁴² Ruppelt's personal papers, File R022, courtesy of Professor Michael Swords.
- ⁴³ Personal interview with Victor H. Bilek by Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, 29, 30 October 1999.
- ⁴⁴ *Test Flying at Old Wright Field* (Omaha, Nebraska: Westchester House Publishers, 1995), pp. 23, 80, 88, 182,

215-216, 218-219, 220, 259-261.

⁴⁵ Bruce Ashcroft, "Heritage Series, Vol. 2." *Major General Harold E. Watson: Intelligence Pioneer, Air Force Warrior*, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio: National Air Intelligence Center, 1994, pp. 1-7.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 8.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, p.iii.

⁴⁸ Ruppelt's personal papers, Card Box 2, courtesy of Professor Michael Swords.

⁴⁹ Although the author gave his word not to cite this source, Ruppelt wrote the following in his private papers: "He [Cabell] raised all kinds of hell when he found out that Col. Watson and ATIC hadn't been doing anything about the UFO project in 1950. According to what Cummings said, he was pretty much a believer in the UFOs."—Ruppelt's personal papers, File R022. (Cabell himself stated in his own memoirs that he wanted his people to try to prove UFOs *did* exist because that philosophy would yield more objective results than the impossible task of trying to prove a negative.)—Cabell, *A Man of Intelligence*, p. 246. (Years later Cabell also told the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomenon, NICAP, that he believed there was something to UFOs.)—C.P. Cabell to Art Lundahl, annotation by James McDonald from a conversation with Lundahl and Richard Hall in the margin of a copy of Ruppelt's book which was owned by McDonald, 17 May 1970, University of Arizona Archives, Tucson.

⁵⁰ Document dated 18 February 1949, Subject: Project Grudge, Air Force Office Of Special Investigation Files, Project Blue Book Files, National Archives, Record Group 341, Microfilm Pub. No. T-1206, Roll No. 88.

⁵¹ Wendy Connors, *Record of Embarrassment, The Project Sign Report* (by the author, 1999).

⁵² "Project Sign, Report No. F-TR-2274-IA," Project Blue Book Files, Administrative Files, Box 1, Roll No. 85.

⁵³ It should be noted that in 1946 the Army Air Force began a feasibility study of putting an artificial satellite in Earth orbit. The study was headed by Project Rand—then part of the Douglas Aircraft Company and later a separate entity named the Rand Corporation. It was logical that when UFOs became an issue in 1948, that Rand would be asked to explore the possibility that some observed objects may represent "spaceships."

⁵⁴ J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Report* (New York: Barnes & Noble Books, 1977/97), p. 4; and FOIA request I-NAIC-97-053, WPAFB, Dayton, Ohio.

⁵⁵ Some of these "lost files" can still be found a set of microfilm made available by Jan Aldrich and Rod Dyke, which at one time had been in the UFO files of T-2's later successor, the Foreign Technology Division, at WPAFB but were released by Blue Book chief Major Hector Quintanilla to Herbert Strentz for his Ph.D. dissertation titled: "A Survey of Press Coverage of UFOs, 1947-1966."—Northwestern University, 1970.

⁵⁶ Prior to NASA's planetary probes in the 1960s and '70s even reputable scientists openly considered without ridicule the possibility that civilizations could exist in our own solar system. Travel from other star systems, however, was considered improbable even then because of the vast distances involved.

⁵⁷ Against the backdrop of the Cold War the Joint Research and Development Board officially came into being on July 3, 1946. In actuality, the JR&DB was simply Bush's existing cadre of brain trust from the still active Office of Scientific Research and the postwar Joint New Weapons Committee. Added to this were other reconstituted R&D committees and advisors like Dr. Lloyd V. Berkner of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Dr. Berkner was often quoted as saying "a research and development organization, independent of direct military control, is needed to exploit new ideas." Bush, who was then president of the Carnegie Institution, agreed. The National Security Act of July 26, 1947, then gave the teeth to Bush's organization that allowed them to do just that. After that point the JR&DB became the R&D tsar with heretofore unheard of authority in making THE final decisions in matters pertaining to the coordination of all military R&D. Sidney Shalett wrote in a *New York Times* article that this group of civilian scientists were also "performing the unusual function of counseling the Army and Navy on strategic decisions." Once a year the board was expected to submit "a new master plan for military research" to Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal. There was also discussion at the time of Bush's group being a type of forerunner of a National Science Foundation. Bush, in fact, literally had a hand in almost every major scientific organization anyway and even served on the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics with Arthur Raymond of Douglas Aircraft which was then the home of the RAND consulting project. On August 24, 1947, the name of the JR&DB was changed to simply "Research and Development Board." The first Secretary of the Air Force, W. Stuart Symington, as former Secretary of War for Air, highly valued input from Bush's leading scientists. Once he sat on the National Security Council as Secretary of the Air Force, the charismatic Symington developed great influence over his fellow Missourian President. His friendship to Truman gave him leverage over Defense Secretary Forrestal who was always a Navy man at heart. Symington and Truman often relied on the R&DB for consultation on important policy making decisions. This, however, was also true of the powerful Forrestal who in those years served

as a de facto chairman of the JCS—a position yet to be officially created until late 1949. Obviously the power of the R&DB fell in contradiction to what von Karman and military men like General Arnold would have envisioned. So although the Air Force had just become an autonomous service, their own R&D projects were answerable to even higher powers. The same was also true of the more venerable Army and Navy when it came to research and development and the related intelligence work that supported it. In September of 1949 Defense Secretary Forrestal issued a directive increasing the authority of the R&DB still further over that of military R&D interests. This caused great alarm among some of the lower echelons of the military defense establishment. Bush did not consider the R&DB an ideal arrangement himself but had major influence on all its policies. That “*may*” be one explanation for why the R&DB was so skeptical of UFOs. In other words, it *could* have been Bush who was doubtful.

⁵⁸ David Michael Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy In America* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana Univ. Press, 1975), p. 50.

⁵⁹ It is known the AMC’s TID Intelligence unit in Dayton was not under the direct authority of AFOIN until June 1 of 1951, but records show Cabell’s office providing some direction to TID since 1948. By June of 1951 TID was renamed the Air Technical Intelligence Center and formally became a directorate of AFOIN. All along, however, they had provided air technical intelligence not only to AMC and its superior the Air Research and Development Headquarters, but AFOIN as well. Although it is true that from 1945 to June of 1951 the Commander of the Air Materiel Command was TID’s direct superior and from there Commander of the Air Research and Development—who ironically by 1952 became the old T-2 Commander, Colonel Donald Putt. From June 1, 1951 to April 21, 1952, after becoming a directorate of AFOIN, the ATIC Commander answered directly to the Assistant for Production in AFOIN. After that time he was directly responsible to the Director of AFOIN.—“History Of Air Technical Intelligence Center, 1 January 1953—30 June 1953,” publication T52-8026, Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, 1953. (This document courtesy of Rob Young, Historian, National Air Intelligence Center, 1999.); “History Of Air Technical Intelligence Center, 1 June 1951—31 December 1951,” publication T52-4570, Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, 1951, pp. 43-57. (This document courtesy of Air Force Historical Research Agency, Archivist Archie DiFante, Maxwell AFB, 1999.); History Of Air Materiel Command Intelligence, T-2, Historical Study No. 228, Vols. 1-3, Prepared by Doris A. Canham, Historical Office Executive Secretariat, Air Materiel Command, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, August 1948, declassified 23 January 1990. (This document courtesy of Rob Young, Historian, National Air Intelligence Center, and Ms. Jean August of the Materiel Air Command History Office, 1999.); and “Air Intelligence Handbook, Continental Air Command, Nov., 1949,” Microfilm Record Index 2464, Roll No. A4033, Classification No. 419.6031-1, U.S. Air Force Historical Agency, Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Alabama.

⁶⁰ Ruppelt, *Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, pp. 58-60.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ruppelt’s unedited manuscript to *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, courtesy of Professor Swords.

⁶³ Ruppelt, *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, pp. 68-69.

⁶⁴ Edward Condon, ed., *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects* (New York: Bantam Books, 1969), p. 509.

⁶⁵ Air Force officers like Colonel Watson may have been directing a policy that only recognized UFO incidents which might be attributed to the Soviets. But it must be remembered the term UFO means a wide variety of things to different people. Technically speaking, the acronym “UFO” did not even exist at that time. Loedding had used the phrase “unidentified flying object” as early as 1947. By 1948 and 1949 some mention of the term appears in the files but not on a routine basis until 1951. Ruppelt made UFOs a catchword by 1952—turning it into a word pronounced “ufoes” and spelled UFO’s. Later, saucers would be synonymous with the term UFO, but it was also used to refer to unidentified enemy aircraft and missile sightings. This author believe Boggs and Watson realized that there was indeed such a thing as “flying saucer” phenomena. Maybe they knew far, far more about it than anyone has ever imagined. But they were Cold warriors first and foremost. In 1949, with Russia’s recent mastery of atomic technology, they were much more concerned with unidentified flying objects which could be traced to the Soviets. In short, the primary mission of the Air Force was control of the air and “saucers” did not directly figure into their priorities.

⁶⁶ By 1952 Isadore H. Herman became Chief of Aircraft and Propulsion—by which time Edward Ruppelt was working on the UFO project. It should be noted that in Air Force organizational charts following 1951 the term “Section” is changed to “Branch” and “Branch” becomes “Section.”

⁶⁷ “Daytonian Resigns Post With Troy Waco Aircraft,” *Dayton (Ohio) Journal*, 25 June 1947.

⁶⁸ Thanks to Mr. Bilek for his helpful research.

⁶⁹ Bruce Ashcroft, “Heritage Series, Vol. 2.” *Major General Harold E. Watson: Intelligence Pioneer, Air Force*

Warrior, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio: National Air Intelligence Center, 1994; and great thanks to special assistance from former NAIC historian Bruce Ashcroft.

⁷⁰ Personal interview with Victor H. Bilek by Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, 29, 30 October 1999.

⁷¹ "Princeton Engineer Believes Flying Saucers Real Thing," *Trenton Sunday Times-Advertiser*, 10 October 1954.

⁷² The author gave his word to this source not to quote them by name.

⁷³ TID records show Deyarmond actually held many offices within the T-2/TID/ATIC organization. Former Armaments Section Chief Victor H. Bilek of TID/ATIC's Analysis Division explained to the author that this was often referred to as "musical chairs." Mr. Bilek stated that many times when a top position changed, officials all the way down through the organizational chain would be moved to fill positions.

⁷⁴ Personal papers of Alfred Loedding provided courtesy of Donald Loedding.

⁷⁵ Personal interview with Victor H. Bilek by Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, 29, 30 October 1999.

⁷⁶ Ruppelt's unedited manuscript to *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*.

⁷⁷ Memorandum, From: C.P. Cabell, To: James Forrestal, 30 November 1948, CUFOs Files.

⁷⁸ Brig. Gen. Moore's Memorandum Seeking Authority to Deal With Media Articles About UFOs. (See Project 1947—<http://www.project1947.com/fig/1948d.htm>.)

⁷⁹ Memorandum to Forrestal Requesting Authority to Assist the Press, 24 November 1948. (See Project 1947—<http://www.project1947.com/fig/1948f.htm>.) (It is important to note that UFO researcher Jan Aldrich feels "that indications from the USAF Office of Information UFO files are that this letter was never submitted to Forrestal, and press policy continued to be handled on an informal basis with general guidelines, much to Major General Cabell's displeasure.")

⁸⁰ Jan L. Aldrich, "Top-Secret 1949 Document," *International UFO Reporter* 23, no. 1 (Spring 1998): 4.

⁸¹ Secretary of Air Force Office of Information UFO files 1947-1952, microfilm record 33765, U.S. Air Force Historical Agency, Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Alabama. (Although Shallet was allowed access to Intelligence files, Major General Cabell passed word down that he was not to be shown any "TOP SECRET" or foreign documents. Jan Aldrich has written on this, stating, "When Sydney Shallet was writing his two-part article on flying saucers for the *Saturday Evening Post*, he received permission from the Air Force to visit Wright Field to gather material. Prior to his arrival, Mr. Stephen Leo, of the Secretary of the Air Force Public Information Office, sent a letter to Wright Field requesting that Shallet be given access only to "SECRET" information on flying saucers. Shallet was not to be permitted to see any "TOP SECRET" material on the subject. One could say this was just the standard admonishment that security matters require, but now it takes on new meaning in light of the discovery of the top secret USAFE cable. There was, indeed, top secret information concerning UFOs at Wright Field."—Look for more interesting insights by Jan Aldrich on Project 1947 Web site: <http://www.project1947.com/fig/jtt.htm>.)

⁸² Telephone interview with George W. Towles by Wendy Connors, November 1998.

⁸³ Telephone interview with Ret. Colonel Nathan R. Rosengarten by Michael Hall, August 1998.

⁸⁴ Secretary of Air Force Office of Information UFO files 1947-1952, microfilm record 33765, U.S. Air Force Historical Agency, Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Alabama.

⁸⁵ Ruppelt's personal papers, Card Box 1, courtesy of Professor Michael Swords; and Cabell himself stated in his own memoirs that he wanted his people to try to prove UFOs *did* exist because that philosophy would yield more objective results than the impossible task of trying to prove a negative.—Cabell, *A Man of Intelligence*, p. 246.

⁸⁶ At one time Walter Winchell's radio show had an audience estimated to be a third of the population of the United States.

⁸⁷ Thanks to Jan Aldrich for forwarding Air Materiel Command Memo, From: W.R. Clingerman, Chief Analysis Division, To: Director of Intelligence, Operations, 3 April 1949; and other related documents.

⁸⁸ Ibid.; and Assessment, From: Major General C.P. Cabell, Director AFOIN, To: Chief of Staff, 6 April 1949.

⁸⁹ Cabell, *A Man of Intelligence*, p. 246.

⁹⁰ "Secretary of Air Force Office of Information UFO files 1947-1952, microfilm record 33765, U.S. Air Force Historical Agency, Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Alabama, Force Base, AL.

⁹¹ Cabell, *A Man of Intelligence*. (It is interesting to note how Major General Cabell's dealings with the press focused on controlled tact. Even in later years when Cabell served as Deputy Director of the CIA during the Bay of Pigs disaster, he would be using that same approach.—Charles P. Cabell, *A Man of Intelligence: Memoirs of War, Peace and the CIA* (Colorado, Colorado Springs, Impavide Publications, 1997, p. 366-394.)

⁹² Project Saucer was a general term used by the media to refer to the early classified Sign and Grudge projects.

⁹³ "Project Saucer," Memorandum to the Press # M26-49, 27 April 1949, Project Blue Book files. (See Project 1947—<http://www.project1947.com/fig/projsauc.htm>.) (In regard to the "Project Saucer" press release, there is some mystery surrounding its actual release. Professor Michael Swords writes: "It was completed by mid-April and coordinated through the AMC and Pentagon public relations offices, who viewed it as a press release. Boggs reviewed it. He suggested *not* to make it a press release, but an information document, which could be read at the Pentagon by inquiring reporters. He wanted to limit the access and consequently the volume of coverage. Secondly, he wanted the removal of certain speculations about space travel and life in the universe which had been contributed by science consultants to the original Sign report. But the two changes did not happen! Perhaps due to a snafu or a deliberate thumbing of someone's nose at the anti-extraterrestrials, the 'Press Release' of April 27 came out with a more ET and saucer sympathetic tone than the two-part article of Shallet which it was meant to *correct*. Several readers of the release were boggled. Why would the Air Force make Shallet look bad and flying saucers look good? Something about flying discs must be very interesting yet covered up.")

⁹⁴ "Report by The Director Of Intelligence, USAF, to the Joint Intelligence Committee on Unidentified Aerial Objects," USAF Director of Intelligence Files, General File July 1945-December 1954, Records Group 341, Entry 214A, Stack Area 190, Row 66, Compartment 32-33, Shelf 03, Top Secret Control #2-7051-A, National Archives II, College Park, Maryland. (See Project 1947—<http://www.project1947.com/fig/jic.htm>.)

⁹⁵ United States Air Force Headquarters, letter regarding destruction of Air Intelligence Report 100-203-79, 25 September 1950, CUFOS Files.

⁹⁶ "Memorandum to the Press: Project Saucer, No. M26-49, 29 April 1949," Project Blue Book Files, Roll No. 5.

⁹⁷ "Air Force To Get Biggest Cut Of Newest National Budget," Dayton, Ohio, *Journal Herald*, 26 December 1949.

⁹⁸ McCullough, *Truman*, pp. 747-746.

⁹⁹ Cabell, *A Man of Intelligence: Memoirs of War, Peace and the CIA*, p. 261.

¹⁰⁰ Cabell, *A Man of Intelligence: Memoirs of War, Peace and the CIA*, p. 271.

¹⁰¹ From 1949 to 1989, the threat of Soviet aircraft, and later missile attack was *perceived* to be quite real. Today we take it for granted with our vast technology that the skies are constantly being scanned with satellite and sophisticated radar networks. But in the late 40s and early 50s, no satellite systems existed, and very few modern ground radar units were in operation. Radar detection consisted of a few Second World War era radar stations in Alaska which were being upgraded to scan for attacking Soviet bomber fleets—part of which became known as the LASHUP network. The more famous and vastly more elaborate DEW network of northern radar defenses strung all the way across Canada was still on the drawing board. Radar stations dotted the lower continental U.S.—designed to follow possible enemy aircraft and direct fighters from ADC bases. However the ADC, which had very few modern jets, were primarily focusing its best aircraft and new radar sites around the bases of the SAC. Formed on March 21, 1946, SAC became the most important of the Air Force services because its bombers were the only means they had to bring war straight to an enemy nation. While a few newer radar stations were being positioned in support of SAC, most existing stations utilized by ADC were basically an outgrowth of about 70 radar sites already in use at the end of the Second World War. These were known as Ground Control Intercept sites or GCI. During the war GCI stations became known as the "Manual System" and were built primarily near major east and west coast cities and close to nuclear facilities with other stations in Mexico and, as already mentioned, in Alaska and Canada. Unfortunately, many GCI sites had fallen into a state of erosion after the end of WWII. But with the coming of the Cold War and the Berlin airlift in 1948, that attitude changed. Even as early as 1947 the Air Force began revitalizing not just its wartime GCI Manual System north of the border, but throughout the lower continental United States as well. By 1949 the reconstitution of those WWII radar sites received even greater priority after the Russians test exploded their first atomic bomb in August of that year. When war in Korea began in 1950, General Vandenberg became very concerned. He consulted with Dr. Theodor von Karman, the head of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board. In 1949 Karman's Board set up an Air Defense Systems Engineering Committee (ADSEC) under MIT professor George E. Valley. Valley's committee looked into beefing up the antiquated GCI system. By 1950 his plan received the support of Congress which laid the groundwork for an eventual computerized radar network which was in operation by 1958—known as SAGE. But in the early 50s, the reactivated GCI Manual System was the primary radar defense available and only a marginal improvement of the WWII network. Each of its approximately 70 sites by 1952 consisted of one or two search radars, a height-finder radar, ground-to-air and air-to-ground communications. The operators at each station worked in shifts but not necessarily on a round-the-clock basis. Each operator filled his hours by watching a small round radar "scope" or screen. When an aircraft was detected it would appear as a "blip" of light on the screen. Each radar site was connected by telephone so a target could be tracked by multiple stations. Information from the radar sights was tied into control centers which had a large illuminated plexiglass board with geographic features of the local countryside imposed on its surface. Men would stand on ladders behind these huge clear boards and mark the trajectory of significant targets as reports came in from the various radar stations. However, ever since 1950 the Air Force had been severely stretching its radar resources because of the war in Korea—not to mention its growing commitment to the containment of Communism in Europe with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or NATO. As a result, experienced radar operators became greatly diluted among the total number of bases. Still more of the experienced

personnel were reassigned to serve at the growing number of ADC and SAC bases operating radar defense equipment. The Army and Navy and a new radar branch of the National Weather Service diluted still further the total pool of experienced operators. Another problem concerned coverage. Even though large civilian airports were installing radar, vast areas of the country and sea-side approaches still lay blind. Radar picket ships and towers in the Atlantic and Pacific were being considered. Two one million cubic foot capacity non-ridged airships with search radars had already been built by the Navy, but an attack coming from the ocean would, in likelihood, not be detected until enemy aircraft approached the American coast. And even in areas of complete coverage, no technology then existed to track very low flying aircraft.

¹⁰² Thanks as always to Joel Carpenter's intensive and scholarly research!

¹⁰³ Although this thesis was not talked about much until after a very famous series of sightings over Washington D.C. in July of 1952, it became a serious issue with the CIA. Cabell did become the number two man at the CIA but not until early 1953—well after the CIA had already formulated their position.

¹⁰⁴ "15 Killed After Broadcast In Ecuador of Mars 'Attack,'" Wilmington, Delaware, *Journal Every Evening*, 14 February 1949, p. 11.

¹⁰⁵ First draft of an article written by Professor Swords for an article for a University of Kansas book project.

¹⁰⁶ Ruppelt, *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, pp. 61-64.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 59-68.

¹⁰⁸ Department of Defense, News Release No. 629-49, "Air Force Discontinues Flying Saucer Project," 27 December 1949, U.S. Air Force Historical Agency, Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Alabama.

¹⁰⁹ "Flying Saucer Report Denied In Kentucky," *Dayton (Ohio) Journal*, 28 December 1949.

¹¹⁰ "Magazine Says Saucers Are Interplanetary," *Dayton Journal*, 27 December 1949.

¹¹¹ "Flying Saucers—There Aren't Any, AF Decides," *Dayton Journal*, 28 December 1949.

¹¹² United Press news story, 28 December 1949.

¹¹³ "Investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects, Project 10073," To: Director of Intelligence, From: Colonel Harold E. Watson, Chief of Intelligence Department for Headquarters, Air Materiel Command, 23 April 1951, USAF Director of Intelligence Files, Records Group 341, National Archives II, College Park, Maryland.

¹¹⁴ Thanks to Jan Aldrich for sharing a recent discovery of a document from the 30th Air Division.

¹¹⁵ "Index," Project Blue Book Files, Roll No. 1. (Official 1969 statistics of the USAF list 210 total reports for 1950 yet the index now list 241 for 1950 with three other unnumbered sightings.)

¹¹⁶ The R&DB did take an interest in UFOs. We know this because correspondence from the first two Air Force investigations called Project Sign and Grudge were filed with the R&DB. The R&DB also lent their expertise as needed. One such example is found in minutes forwarded to Project Grudge detailing that first meeting held on the Green Fireball sightings at the Los Alamos Scientific Lab on February 18, 1949. Meteor expert Dr. Lincoln LaPaz is quoted as saying (in regard to the Green Fireballs) a "Dr. [H.E.] Landsberg of [the Geophysics and Geography Committee of] the Research and Development Board very kindly interested himself in the problem and the air searchers resulted not even in the discovery of a broken branch." An earlier document dated January 7, 1949, is found in the files of WPAFB. It is typed on the official stationery of the R&DB and is a rather routine-looking memorandum to Air Force Intelligence Headquarters which again deals with the fireball phenomenon of that time so prevalent in the American Southwest. Apparently, this copy was later forwarded to project Grudge personnel for their own files. The interesting item of note in the document is a reference to the fact that the R&DB had its own "Technical Intelligence Branch." The document is signed by David Z. Beckley, Chief Technical Intelligence Branch of the R&DB. The paper trail goes on. Project Sign and Grudge advisor Dr. George E. Valley from the Nuclear Physics Laboratory at MIT makes mention of the R&DB in a memo but seems unsure of its role in the UFO subject. He suggests that the R&DB had an office at WPAFB, in Dayton, Ohio, but all research to date shows the group to be based only in the Pentagon. However, in a follow-up letter sent to Dr. Valley on November 29, 1948, from Project Sign, it states that a listing of the first 100 saucer sightings in their files were being sent to the R&DB at "Hq. Air Materiel Command for overall study and comment on all phases of present and future concern to national security." On May 19, 1949, Air Materiel Intelligence Commander at WPAFB, Colonel Howard M. McCoy, forwarded a copy of the Project Sign final report to the R&DB along with some appendices which later found their way into the Grudge project final report. A Colonel R.H. Curtis is listed in that correspondence as the contact person at the R&DB's "committee on guided missiles." That was the committee Dr. Sarbacher consulted on. Harvard professor of physics and communications engineering Dr. Robert I. Sarbacher is now well known in ufological literature as the man who passed information to Canadian scientist Wilbur B. Smith through the Canadian Embassy staff in Washington in 1950. Smith was then interested in forming a Canadian investigation into UFOs as a logical

spinoff of his existing research into electromagnetic radio wave research. He summarized the information gained from Dr. Sarbacher in a November 21, 1950, "Memorandum to the Controller of Telecommunications." This memorandum has come under some debate, but the facts presented in it were authenticated by Dr. Sarbacher himself before his death in 1986. It states that "flying saucers exist" and that they are a highly classified subject—even higher than the H-bomb. Dr. Walker, who succeeded Dr. Robert F. Rinehart as executive secretary of the R&DB in August of 1950 tells an amazing tale, too. Authors Grant Cameron and T. Scott Crain, Jr. interviewed Dr. Walker for their book, *UFOs, MJ-12 and the Government: A Report on Government Involvement in UFO Crash Retrievals*. They reported that Dr. Walker branded the famous MJ-12 papers a fake but did say that there was a group by that name formed in 1947. As with Dr. Sarbacher, the story expands from there. Dr. Walker admitted (to researcher William Steinman) attending meetings at WPAFB concerning "recovered UFOs." He claimed that they had even recovered bodies but seemed to downplay the significance of any useful information gained. One might ask why Dr. Walker did not comment on all this when he published his memoirs titled *Now It's My Turn: Engineering My Way*. Maybe the stories about his work with the U.S. Navy on the homing torpedo during WWII, his presidency of Penn State University, or his tenure as chair of the National Science Foundation Board were more important to him. Neither can Dr. Sarbacher's story be positively verified. Writer and researcher T. Scott Crain, Jr. told this author that he had spoken with the executive director of the R&DB's Guided Missile Committee, Fred A. Darwin. Darwin told Crain that "the RDB took a rather dim view of UFO's." He also stated that although Dr. Sarbacher was an exceptionally gifted man, to his regret, Sarbacher was not chairman of the Guidance and Control Panel of the Guided Missile Committee as he claimed. According to Darwin, Sarbacher was replaced as a member of the Guidance and Control Panel after only a few months and never attended a single meeting. Darwin elaborated that R&DB members like von Braun, von Neuman, Drs. Berkner, Bronk, Bush and Oppenheimer were skeptical of the very existence of UFOs. We may never know if Darwin was sincere in his statements, but according to former Mercury and Gemini astronaut Gordon Cooper, at least one name on that list, Wernher von Braun, did have an open mind on the subject in general.

¹¹⁷ Research conducted by Barry Greenwood. (Noted researcher and writer Barry Greenwood cautions that some doubt has been cast as to whether the security classification was legitimate or something merely inserted by Smith himself. Until further details are available, the memo should be viewed with caution.)

¹¹⁸ Letter draft From: Water R. Agee, 7 April 1950, CUFOS Files.

¹¹⁹ Memorandum, From: L.S. Harns regarding phone call to Colonel Harold Watson to General Moore's instructions, 12 October 1950, CUFOS Files.

¹²⁰ Walter W. Ruch, "Kenney Sees Peril To U.S. War Effort," *New York Times*, 6 June 1950, p. 2.

¹²¹ Bob Considine, "The Disgraceful Flying Saucer Hoax!" *Cosmopolitan*, January 1951, pp. 33, 100-103.

¹²² Ruppelt's personal papers, File R022, courtesy of Professor Michael Swords.

¹²³ Personal interview with Victor H. Bilek by Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, 29, 30 October 1999. (Mr. Bilek gave the eulogy at General Watson's funeral and is honored to have known him well.)

¹²⁴ Reserve Commander Bernard Baruch, Jr. was a relative of the financial wizard Bernard Baruch. They were both very well politically connected men. Reserve Commander Bernard Baruch became an Intelligence officer for the Air Transportation Command, which was later called Military Air Transport System (MATS).

¹²⁵ Thanks to Jan Aldrich for sharing a recent discovery.

¹²⁶ "Investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects, Project 10073," To: Chief, Air Technical Intelligence Center, From: C.P. Cabell, 22 October 1951, USAF Director of Intelligence Files, Records Group 341, National Archives II.

¹²⁷ Ruppelt's unedited manuscript to *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, courtesy of Professor Swords.

¹²⁸ "Investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects, Project 10073," To: Chief, Air Technical Intelligence Center, From: C.P. Cabell, 22 October 1951, USAF Director of Intelligence Files, Records Group 341, National Archives II.

¹²⁹ E-mail correspondence between Brad Sparks and Fran Ridge.

¹³⁰ Ruppelt's personal papers, File R022, courtesy of Professor Michael Swords.

¹³¹ Ruppelt's unedited manuscript to *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, courtesy of Professor Swords.

¹³² Ruppelt's personal papers, Card Box 1, courtesy of Professor Michael Swords. (Air Force Historian Bruce Ashcroft found the term R&R in a 1956 Air Force dictionary. He says it can refer to a "Routing and Record Sheet." A Routing and Record Sheet would have been put on top of a piece of correspondence, a message (TWX), or a report. In this case, the famous R&R message referred to by Ruppelt deals with a message sent to the AFOSI on October 1, 1951—see page 50, Chapter Two, of Hall and Connors' work on Ed Ruppelt: *Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, Summer of the Saucers*.)

¹³³ Colonel Watson was reassigned to General Lauris Norstad's command in Europe around this time.

¹³⁴ Ruppelt's unedited manuscript to *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, courtesy of Professor Swords.

¹³⁵ It is interesting to note that Cabell used the phrase in his memoirs that he was "relieved" from duty as Director of Intelligence. In the context of that he complained about how during his tenure as Director of Air Force Intelligence, that AFOIN was not made part of the decision making process. Major General Cabell apparently had a good working relationship with General Vandenberg but was not allowed to routinely attend very many of the top meetings held by the Chief of Staff. He says on page 273: "It is not possible to get all that intelligence has to contribute if its role is restricted to the advance preparation of a paper making an 'estimate' and to the presentation of an intelligence briefing. For full effectiveness there must be intelligence participation at the decision-making sessions." Cabell states, however, that after Brigadier General Walter Bedell Smith took over the CIA, there eventually was better networking and Cabell says not until Smith's time was there a true "Intelligence Community" as such.—Charles P. Cabell, *A Man of Intelligence: Memoirs of War, Peace and the CIA* (Colorado, Colorado Springs, Impavide Publications, 1997, p. 273, 243-251.

Icefalls investigated by the Anomaly Foundation

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The "Anomaly Foundation" pushes research on the falls of iceblocks reported in Spain.

In the threshold of the second anniversary of the strange ice rock shower phenomenon which took place in numerous Spanish locations in January 2000, the not-for-profit organization Anomaly Foundation (Apartado 5041, 39080 Santander, Spain) will finance a documentary compilation on this subject. "Hydroaerolites: the enigma which fell out of the blue" will be the title of a report which is being prepared under the editorship of telecommunications engineer Manuel Borraz. It received the 2001 "Universitas" scholarship, sponsored by the Foundation with the participation of the Washington-based Fund for UFO Research. It is trusted that the mystery which impacted many Spaniards and world-wide media, becoming the target for hoaxes and speculations as well as for many esoteric explanations, can be finally placed into its real historical context and proper perspective with this new publication.

This set of controversial episodes, which were followed by cloned events in Italy and Holland, had at the start the simple journalist name of iceblocks, but the Foundation provided the more scientific denomination of hydroaerolites, meaning rocks made of water which fall from the sky.

Manuel Borraz, the leader of the project, declared that "one of the objectives of this collective monograph will be to reflect the present status of the question about the origin of these masses of ice which allegedly fell in many scattered villages". As it is well-known, many of these occurrences proved to be frauds. Although there were some experts who pointed to ordinary meteorological origins such as hail or the natural production of ice on aircraft, this phenomenon arose considerable interest among the mainstream Spanish scientific community with an intense debate, still unresolved, which resulted in the creation of a research committee by the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), the upper scientific research council of the Spanish academia.

The Anomaly Foundation was founded 1997 with the aim to fund the scientific-oriented investigation of unusual aerial phenomena, commonly called UFOs, to preserve the related documentation gathered in Spain in the last 50 years, to provide scholarships, grants and prizes, and to publish specialized journals and books.

On the weekend of November 2 to 4, the Foundation Board and collaborators met in Valencia. Four field work funds were granted to Spanish researchers who during this year accomplished good case investigations of UFO experiences: Marcos Benítez Campillo (Proyecto CREBE, Cádiz), Antonio Salinas (SIB, Granada), Juan Carlos Victorio (Guipúzcoa) and Carlos León (Asturias).

In the last years, the Anomaly Foundation, whose web site www.anomalia.org has already received more than 100,000 visits, has become a routine reference on this subject-matter, specially for the university environment, because of its development of data bases on UFO report data, scientific references bibliographies, etc.

November 2001

Anomalous Luminous Phenomena (A.L.P.)

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Abstract

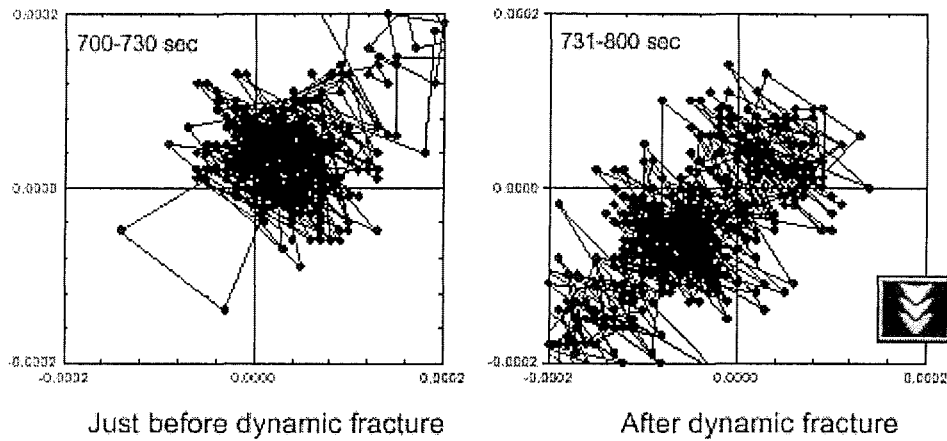
Our ALP project had started in 1999 just before the Izmit Earthquake (**ref:1** - pictures **ref1a**). There were 2 main reasons to execute this project:

- 1- To prove that the lights seen before earthquakes are not UFOs.
- 2- To decrease the rate of deaths caused by earthquakes, by warning people beforehand.

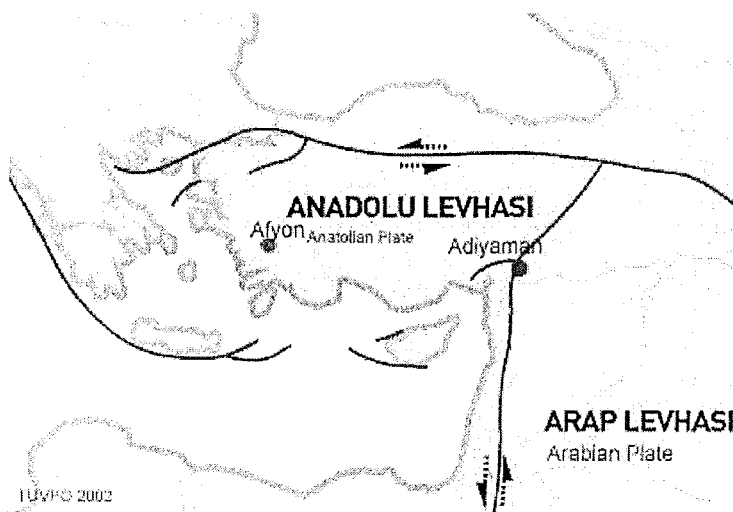
By that time, we obtained new knowledge and we need to change the older information in our first web page (**ref:2**) with newer information. Firstly our page had been composed for everyone to understand. People interested in UFOs mostly visit our pages; so informing these people with correct data are aimed. Due to this reason, we did not give detailed technical information in our pages and the questions that are asked to us about the details will be answered and are still being answered.

The phenomena which is in the earthquake lights category that has been the most scientifically described is TST (Tectonic Strain Theory) (**ref:3**) by M. Persinger. The ALP term in our project is quoted from this paper. Our ALP definition is not the flames that occur during or just after the quake or discharge of static electric or the lights emerged from the gas that comes from the crust.

We have a few reasons for using the term "**ALP**". First is as a result from the fact that this phenomenon could not been defined, and the other is that the earthquake lights emerge in various formations. On the other hand, ALPs vary in every different geographical region.



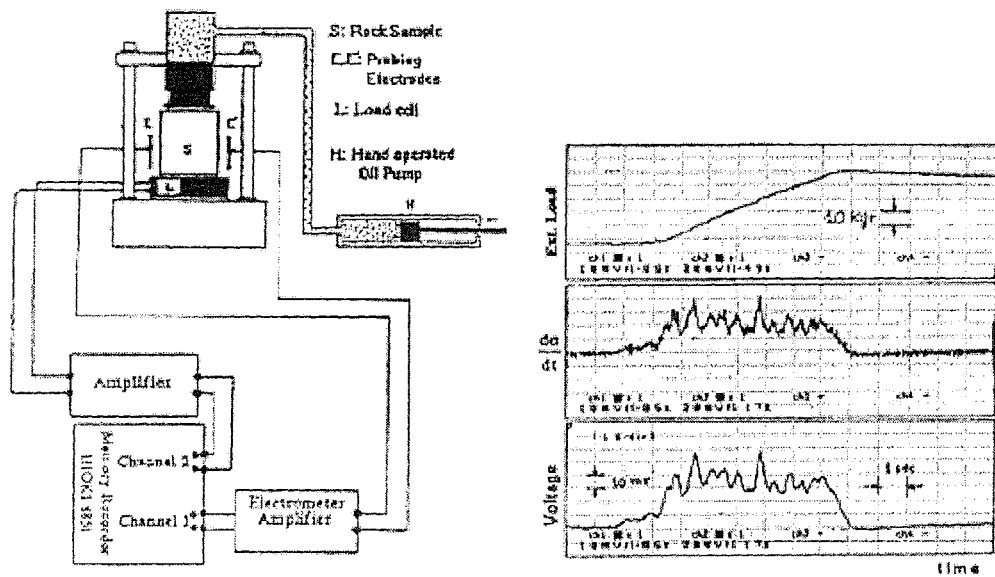
The lights that we are researching are seen just before the earthquake in the regions located on the active fault lines or in the regions where active plates forms stress. Such a phenomena is seen most recently during the Adiyaman sightings (*ref:4*).



The Arabian Plate forms its stress accumulation on the point of the city of Adiyaman, as seen in the illustration. The Arabian Plate slides into the Anatolian Plate every year by about 2 centimetres. Due to that fact, UFO reports are mostly reported from the region around Adiyaman. However, these lights are ALPs and the release of the stress had occurred on a new and weak fault line on the Anatolian Plate, which Afyon is located on.

There has not been much research conducted on the subject of resembling light phenomena which are not connected with quakes and seismic (like in the regions that have volcanoes nearby or located over similar mineral structures); but the techniques used by us to define the ALPs can be another research subject in terms of analysing these lights. Since our project had started, the pre-information below has been obtained, although some new age groups that are concerned with UFOs insist on Alien

spacecraft. As a summary, ALPs occur in the regions where seismic activities are happening, and emerge from the crystal structures that are crushed by the stress. They become visible with many other natural events. A laboratory model of such a mechanism is shown in the diagram below.



So the movement of the plates creates the stress and causes the ALP lights seen before the quakes. The difference between the date of observing lights and quakes occurring is related with the length of the fault line. The pre-information to support this thesis was reached as a result of analysing the data obtained since 1999. Nevertheless it cannot be formulated due to the deficiency of similar events. These data should be evaluated under detailed information, such as ALPs, duration of observation, height (from ground), colour spectral behaviour, the piezoelectric charges observed in the region and various gases (possible Radon) which are thought to be causing the planes to crash into ground and spread into air from the fault lines.

	Darley Dale Sandstone		Bentheim Sandstone		Icelandic Basalt	
	Pre-seismic	Co-seismic	Pre-seismic	Co-seismic	Pre-seismic	Co-seismic
Water Free	20	107	20	40	0	35
Drained	100	115	30	65	20	232
Undrained	27	27	26	56	-	-

Table 10-1 Magnitude of pre-seismic and co-seismic signals for sandstone and basalt under a range of experimental conditions. All values are given in millivolt. Replotted from Table 5-1.

It is certain that a result will be obtained with the information that I have summed up above and with the studies of other scientists. We hear various theses about ALPs from scientists. The most interesting one is the Kiana theory of Hafez Keypour and (*ref:5*) his team. Shortly, the storage of nuclear waste is claimed as one of the reasons of quakes in this theory. There are

theses of other scientists too; however none of them is proved clearly. As a result, we claim that the topics mentioned here are expertise branches on their own. We also claim the data as being not satisfactory when obtained from research that is not supported with other research. We, TUVPO, can only study a small section of the topic and we will naturally let the other subjects be studied by other scientists and groups. Also we are ready to provide documents to join the other studies and similar subjects.

Our studies are focused on the subjects below.

- 1- To find, analyse and describe video and photographic documentations about ALPs,
- 2- To determine and measure the piezoelectric sphere during the formation of ALPs and to find the connection between quakes. The data taken from 8 different parts of the Marmara region are being evaluated at the moment.
- 3- To formulate the connection of all data with earthquakes
- 4- To forward the essays of project participants to other participants and to supply contact between them.
- 5- To classify the reports of other establishments and researchers about UFOs and forward to other researchers by means of the project

The first data of our ALP project

Between 20 and 26.8.1999, Turkish TV stations mentioned UFOs in a sensational way. Lots of TV channels were mentioning "***Aliens had come or coming***". So some Turkish UFO groups were talking about these lights and claiming they are UFOs. TUVPO firstly seized this subject. The illustration below shows a TV channel making news about UFOs during this time period. For a detailed information, you can check our (***ref:2***)website

As a result, during the research of the first important ALP observation, the Izmit earthquake occurred and some other ALPs were observed and some similar quakes occurred following this one. These were hard times for all of us. Approximately 25 000 people had died, while TVs and newspapers were publishing the news about the disaster, these images had affected our lives badly. People couldn't enter their homes and lots of negative events followed. We evaluated our data during every chance we got and the data obtained were indicating that some of the earthquakes could be noticed before and lots of people could have been saved. So we started our ALP project. Firstly some high - resolution **ALP photos** were taken and published on our website.

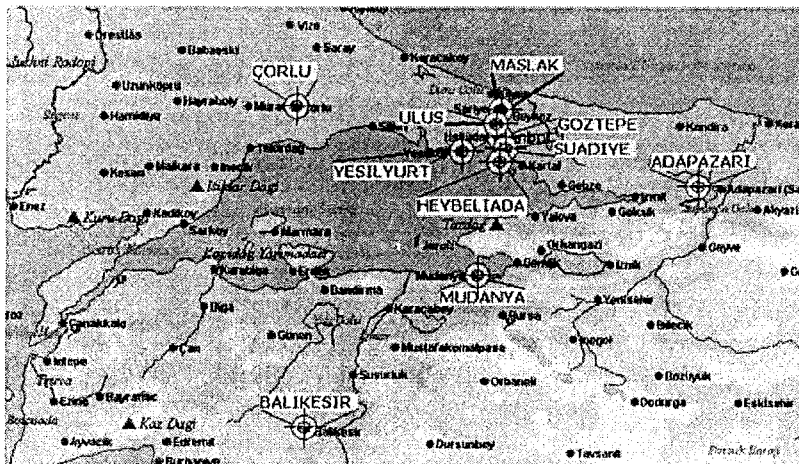
Since then lots of similar but smaller seismic activities and ALP sightings have occurred (***ref:10*** - ALP sightings map in Marmara region; Turkey is entirely on an earthquake zone). We found out that the duration of observing the lights are directly proportional to the distance of the area that the earthquake will occur and to the length of the fault line.

To find, analyse and describe video and photographic documentations about ALPs

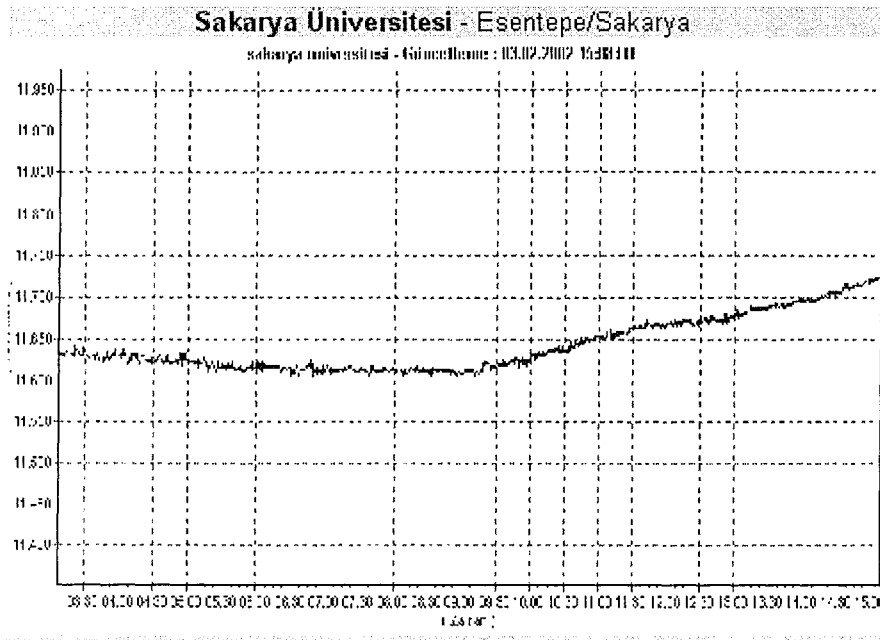
I have used my personal experiments in a professional film branch. I studied on some colour profiles to obtain lots of measurement stability as personal who had education on colour reproduction and separation in printing sector. These profiles or measurement (spectral) scales are developed only for supporting the description of ALPs. These profiles include the studies as comparing and matching spectral values of light with piezo light values, determining the heat and Kelvin temperature, finding the approximately height etc. Advanced film and colour measurement and high quality reproduction equipments are used during analysis and measurements. We cannot claim that the descriptions are 100% reliable; however we did not encounter negative data that will lead us to a doubt (except some of them). The data that we have difficulties to describe are resulted from the low - quality videos taken by three people. I want to say that we are average in terms of developing this technique. I hope that we will clarify the usage and application techniques of such special profiles with more certain references. For the present we can say that we can determine whether the lights are ALPs or not. It is the work of another team to define the places where ALPs are seen and conducting experiments on various soil samples collected from this area as the definition of lights. We want to make a warning in this subject; the lights contain high level energy, and can change sand like formations into glasslike formations in the area which they occur, and very dangerous to human being. (Please check the rock samples shown in our reports) (*ref:6*).

Determining and measuring the sphere of Piezoelectric forces during the occurrence of ALPs and connecting with earthquakes.

Now, the data taken from 10 different ground stations in Marmara region are being evaluated.



These ground stations publish the low frequency (by the method of regional stress measurement related to change in electric field Data Acquisition and Evaluation) components of electrical sphere affected by Piezoelectricity such as VAN method (*ref:8*) as linear measurements and as graphics, 24 hours in a day (*ref:7*).



These values are evaluated with ALP observations. It is rather early to make explanations with certain values although it is proven that there is a connection between ALPs and piezoelectric measurements and following seismic activities.

To formulate the connections between all data and the earthquakes

As we tried to explain above, to formulate such connections seems difficult now. One of its most important reasons is that many various scientists cannot research such a phenomenon together, and the regions that such phenomena are observed are spread in various parts of globe. We, TUVPO, will continue studying as much as we can. We aim to have important documentations in some day. **But we can certainly say that seismic activities absolutely occur after ALP definitions.**

Other subjects

We announced to ufologists when we started our project and wanted them to send similar reports to us legally. Our goal was to obtain a large documentation. At first, many people and foundations supported us, they published our banners but we did not receive any documentation (UFO reports related seismic activity). Although thousands of UFO reports were published and some of them were in ALP characteristic, none of UFO related foundations and people wanted to conduct a disciplined study or they could

not do so. TUVPO evaluated the only documentations and reports obtained from Turkey since then.

The certain obtained fact is that these lights have no connection with aliens. Earthquakes can be noticed before with accurate studies. It is certain that these studies will be developed while seismic activities increase but our wish is that no one will be harmed. Our project is still going on. We are ready to share our experiences as we accept new members.

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ref1: <http://www.itu.edu.tr/deprem/rapor/deprem.html>

ref1a: pictures from İzmit quake

http://www.tuvpo.com/deprem/page_01.htm

ref2: <http://www.tuvpo.com/deprem1e.html>

ref3: Michael A. Persinger, Ph.D. from Laurentian University Sudbury, Ontario, Canada

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ref6: ALP Reports related with İzmit ,Turkey Earthquake

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ref7: by the method of regional stress measurement related to change in electric field

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ref8: VAN METHOD, A CRITICAL REVIEW OF VAN Earthquake Prediction From Seismic Electrical Signals, Sir James Lighthill, University College London

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Earthquake Prediction Research Center, Tokai University. Shimizu 424, Japan and Geodynamics Research Institute/Department of Geology and Geophysics, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843, USA

ref9: Electrical Potential Changes and Acoustic Emissions Generated By

Fracture and fluid Flow During Experimental Triaxial Rock

Deformation, Oswald C. CLINT (4,90Mb pdf file, ask for download)

ref10: <http://www.tuvpo.com/alpreports/harita1.jpg>

Canadian UFO Survey indicates increase in UFO sightings, lack attention

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People in Canada keep on reporting UFO sightings on a "more-or-less constant level" over the past years. According to the Canadian UFO Survey for 2001, compiled by Geoff Dittman and Chris A. Rutkowski with the support of 19 independent UFO organizations, some of the sighted objects defied obvious explanations. This Canadian survey once again confirms results of UFO researchers made over decades over and over again.

Summed up there were 374 UFO sightings reported in Canada in 2001 (about one sighting each day). That's an increase of 42% compared to 2000. About 15% remained unexplained. The percentage of high-quality cases (pilots, police officers or other individuals with reasonably good observing capabilities and good judgement as witnesses; multiple witness cases; physical effects on the surrounding system) is still at 5%. As MUFON-CES can confirm, most UFO sightings have more than one witness. The typical UFO sighting lasted approximately 15 minutes in 2001. Those are the results of the survey (1).

In the UFO UpDates mailing list (2) Rutkowski complains that "scientists seem to have dismissed the latest Canadian UFO Survey without bothering to read and understand its analyses of UFO data." As a result he wrote down 15 Reasons Why Science Should Re-Examine the UFO Phenomenon (3) (Without Ever Mentioning Aliens). They're truly worth a debate.

(1) <http://www.geocities.com/aristotl.geo/>

(2) <http://www.virtuallystrange.net/ufo/updates/latest/>

(3) <http://www.virtuallystrange.net/ufo/updates/2002/mar/m15-019.shtml>

URL of this article:

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The paper by Kathryn Gow and other authors in the volume 2, no. 2 issue of EJUFOAS offers interesting information about "Fantasy Proneness and Other Psychological Correlates of UFO experience". In their conclusion, the authors acknowledge however two methodological shortcomings. The small size of the subjects' sample is alas a frequent problem in many studies, even in conventional matters, and is often fundamentally related to an insufficient funding, for which the researchers are not responsible.

Gow and her co-authors note also that a tighter definition of "contact" and "abduction" might be useful. Basically, the true problem lies however perhaps not in the definition of such terms, but in the instrumentalisation for the purposes of the study, which is already clear from the given values: 100% UFO sightees, 6% UFO abductees and 6 UFO contactees (simplified percentages) are apparently excessive high numbers.

Any serious ufologist admits that 80 to 90% of raw reports can be explained by more or less mundane causes, and there is probably such an important reduction rate amongst contactees and abductees too. Moreover, this effect is probably enhanced by the mere fact that the persons responsible for the classification between the four categories were the subjects themselves.

The authors mention several previous studies about the general problem of the personality of UFO witnesses (or experiencers). But comparisons between them are not always easy because they use various definitions for the same concept. For instance, for Gow and her collaborators, an abductee is somebody who said (in an imprecise manner) he/she had been abducted; but Bloecher, Clamar and Hopkins had selected nine subjects within a set of persons already known as abductees; and the famous 1991 Roper poll said an abductee was "any person having four positive answers amongst five key questions (none of them dealing explicitly with abductions). Such a diversity probably does not help the building of an accurate portrait of the UFO witness, at least in the present state of knowledge.

A last question arises in the construction of the authors' sample. Apparently, most subjects were selected using the door-knocking method; but "in addition, questionnaires were sent to subjects contacted through an Australian-wide UFO organisation". It is not said if the latter persons were randomly selected or if they had previously contacted this organisation. In such a hypothesis, a bias could have been introduced in the sample. It could have been interesting to specify if the UFO sightees, contactees and abductees came rather from the former or from the latter population. In any case, the "anomalous" sex ratio shows that the sample represents at least one feature which differs from the general population: has it some influence about the results of the study?

Claude Mauge, France.

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For citing books.

Nagaitis, C. and Mantle, P. (1994) *Without Consent: A Comprehensive Survey of Missing-Time and Abduction Phenomena in the UK*. Ringpull Press Limited, Cheshire, UK.

For citing chapters from books.

Wagstaff, G.F. (1986) 'Hypnosis as Compliance and Belief: A Socio-Cognitive View,' in P.L.N. Naish (ed.) *What is Hypnosis? Current Theories and Research* Open University Press, Milton Keynes, UK, p.59-84.